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# THE MAN-EATERS OF TSAVO

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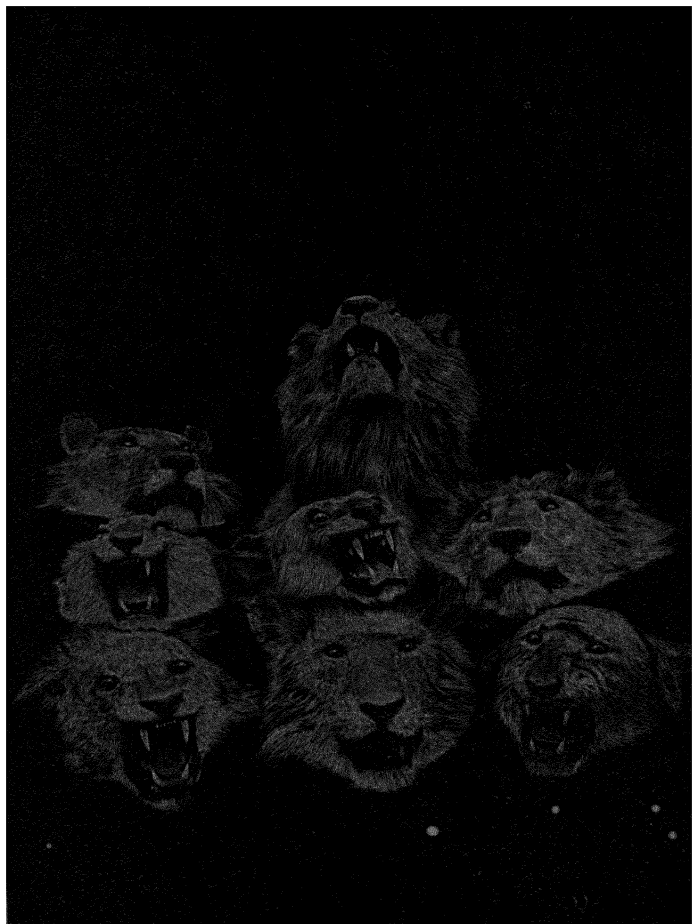
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HEADS OF EIGHT LIONS SHOT BY THE AUTHOR IN BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

# THE MAN-EATERS OF TSAVO

BY

LIEUT.-COL. J. H. PATTERSON, D.S.O

ABRIDGED BY

H. WYATT, M.A.

*WITH ILLUSTRATIONS*

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## PREFACE

THIS book is intended for high classes of Anglo-Vernacular schools as a medium for practice in English usage.

I owe many thanks to Lala Gokal Chand, Head Master. Government High School, Multan, for his criticisms and valuable suggestions.

H. W.



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## NOTE TO THE TEACHER

THIS book has been chosen, for adaptation to the needs and standard of pupils in high classes, because it is written in simple English such as can be used equally well in speaking and writing, and its subject matter is both in itself interesting to boys and very easily intelligible

2. The book is meant for intensive study, the exercises are not intended to be exhaustive, nor to be set to pupils without thought, selection, or alteration as experience suggests. They are intended to illustrate the kind of exercises a careful and thorough practice of which should enable a pupil not so much to know about English words, constructions, or usages, as to use them readily and accurately in his own speech and writing.

3. The main difficulty in mastering any foreign language is not that of learning its grammar or even of attaining correctness of construction, but the difficulty of knowing to the point of prompt (almost unthinking) application those numberless, miscellaneous turns of phrase or idioms in which the vernacular and

the language to be learnt contrast. Readiness in choosing the right preposition with a verb, adverb, or adjective, in using the right verb and noun in combination, in applying an English construction rather than one copied from the vernacular, can be acquired only by repeated deliberate practice of the English usage first, not merely by remembering the usage or its significance next time it is seen in print. The teacher, then, should bear constantly in mind that every lesson passage in this book provides a number of usages with which his pupils are not yet so familiar as to use them unhesitatingly themselves in their own spoken or written English, and that his main object is to pick out—from his experience of his class—just those usages which, though common, have not yet passed into his pupils' working vocabulary, and to impress them. It stands to reason that these for any class in particular will not often be just those selected in this book for junior high classes in general.

4. The sentences containing usages for practice in the exercises accompanying each lesson are often purposely made different from those actually occurring in the text, so as to afford a second instance of the particular usage dealt with. Verbs given in the infinitive in the practice exercises should of course be practised in various moods and tenses, and sometimes also negatively and interrogatively.

In the case of antonyms and synonyms, the words given in the exercises for which the antonym or

synonym has to be given are sometimes the same as those in the text and sometimes other.

As a general principle, the exercise should be of the former kind when the word in the text is rather more familiar than its corresponding word or expression (which the pupil has then to think out from his memory), of the latter when the word is fresh or unfamiliar and the pupil has then to connect it with a more familiar word of similar meaning. It must, of course, be remembered that a synonym is very seldom so exactly similar in sense or usage as to be interchangeable with its fellow word in all contexts.

Topics are inserted for composition with the idea of giving play to a pupil's imagination, while avoiding any difficult mental exercise upon matter too reflective or abstract. A teacher who knows his class will think of other subjects, equally, and perhaps more, suitable and more various.

5. In regard to exercises in translation, the important point is to choose short passages in which the English and the vernacular usages differ, and in which, at the same time, the pupil is not so thoroughly at home with the English usage as to apply it without hesitation, or is misled into using a vernacular construction or turn of phrase by his greater familiarity with it.

Short English passages (whether after translation or not) may often wisely be learnt by heart where they illustrate usages of this kind: they form in the mind a kind of reference sentence for the usage in question.

6. Lastly, the teacher cannot too constantly remember that, for the purpose of teaching English through the medium of a text-book, the ability in a pupil to recall the gist of a passage is not of much importance. Oral composition should not aim chiefly at a mere reproduction of text-book matter, but always and principally at the correct use of English. Hence, although a passage may supply matter for composition, matter may equally well be suggested from other fields of the pupil's imagination or experience, and the success in composition should be gauged, not by exactness in the reproduction of the text, but by facility and accuracy in simple English usage. Stress should therefore be laid upon correct and continuous composition; sentences half-uttered, halting, or slurred should be ruthlessly corrected, and consecutive utterance in clear and confident language should be exacted. To this end, repeated practice, with repeated correction and reference where necessary to known rules, are indispensable.

# THE MAN-EATERS OF TSAVO

## LESSON I

### ARRIVAL AT TSAVO

THE following is the story of several adventures with lions, as full of excitement as any you can have read of elsewhere.

The hero of these adventures was Colonel J. A. Patterson, an officer in the Royal Engineers, who was sent out by the British Government in 1898 to that part of the British Empire now known as British East Africa, to help construct a new railway which ran from the coast to the interior and was known as the Uganda railway from the name of that part of the country through which it passes

Colonel Patterson landed at Mombasa on March 1st, and in a day or two had orders to go to Tsavo, about one hundred and thirty miles from the coast, and to take charge of the line at the furthest point which it had so far reached. You will see Tsavo on the map at the end of the book.

Part of his journey lay uphill through wooded, park-like country, giving beautiful views of the Indian Ocean in the distance. Later the line crosses a desert

of thick undergrowth, where wild animals abound, seldom to be seen, however, from the carriage windows, as the thickets provide a perfect hiding place. At eighty miles more or less from the coast the scenery again changes: the railway enters a beautifully wooded country (the area marked Ndii on the map), from which distant mountains could be descried. But before the traveller and his companion reached their journey's end at Tsavo dusk had set in and the woodlands had given place to a jungle of stunted trees and prickly thorn bushes, amongst which ridges of bare dark red rock showed up here and there.

"I slept that night," says the hero of these adventures, "in a little palm hut which had been built by some previous traveller, and which was fortunately empty for the time being. It was half broken-down, not even possessing a door, and as I lay on my narrow camp bed I could see the stars twinkling through the roof. I little knew then what adventures awaited me in this neighbourhood; and if I had known that at that very time two savage brutes were prowling round, seeking whom they might devour, I hardly think I should have slept so peacefully in my unprotected shelter."

Next morning Colonel Patterson was up betimes, and on viewing the neighbourhood by daylight was again impressed by its barren and dreary character. The snow-capped top of the great Kilima N'jaro could just be seen far away to the south, but the only cheerful



object in the neighbourhood was "the river from which Tsavo takes its name. This is a swiftly flowing stream, always cool and—as is exceptional in this part of East Africa—always running; and the fringe of lofty green trees along its banks formed a welcome relief to the general sameness of the landscape"

In this out-of-the-way place thousands of Indian coolies and other workmen were encamped, in order to push the line on with all speed. A bridge had to be built across the river, and the other works to be completed for thirty miles on either side of the Tsavo. After a preliminary survey of the situation and an estimate of the principal requirements extra tools and materials were sent for from headquarters, and "in a short time workmen and supplies came pouring in, and the noise of hammers and sledges, drilling and blasting, echoed merrily through the district"

The rest of the story will now be told in Colonel Patterson's own words.

### EXERCISES

1 Study and practise usages in: I little knew At last the long spell of heat *gave place* to welcome showers I was much *impressed with* his earnestness The only *relief* to the darkness was a single candle We were all *more or less* tired

2. Give reasons for the inverted commas used in this passage.

3 Give vernacular equivalents for: As is exceptional in Africa He was *known as* 'Fatty' *from* his shape His journey lay uphill

4 Give abbreviated forms of: Colonel, Captain, Doctor, Government, The Royal Engineers.

5 What is the difference in meaning between : to precede, to proceed , practice, practise ; principal, principle ?

6 Form (1) four adjectives with the suffix ' like,' and (2) four nouns with the suffix ' ness,' and use them in sentences

7 Write three sentences using correctly inverted commas and an exclamation mark

8 Describe any railway journey in India, of 150 miles more or less, on which you pass through different kinds of scenery.

## LESSON II

### THE FIRST APPEARANCE OF THE MAN-EATERS

UNFORTUNATELY this happy state of affairs did not last long, and our work was soon interrupted in a rude and startling manner. Two most fierce and ravenous man-eating lions appeared upon the scene, and for over nine months waged an intermittent warfare against the railway and all those connected with it in the vicinity of Tsavo This at length became a perfect reign of terror in December, 1898, when they actually succeeded in bringing the railway works to a complete stand-still for about three weeks. At first they were not always successful in their efforts to carry off a victim, but as time went on they stopped at nothing, and indeed braved any danger in order to obtain their favourite food Their methods then became so crafty, and their man-stalking so well-timed and so certain of success, that the workmen firmly believed that they were not real animals at all, but devils in lions' shape.

Many a time the coolies solemnly assured me that it was absolutely useless to attempt to shoot them. \*They A were quite convinced that the angry spirits of two departed native chiefs had taken this form in order to protest against a railway being made through their country, and by stopping its progress to avenge the insult thus offered them \*

I had only been a few days at Tsavo when I first heard that these brutes had been seen in the neighbourhood. Shortly afterwards one or two coolies (b) mysteriously disappeared, and I was told that they had been carried off by night from their tents and devoured by lions. At the time I did not credit this story, and was more inclined to believe that the unfortunate men had been the victims of foul play at the hands of some of their comrades. They were, as it happened, very good workmen, and had each saved a fair number of rupees, so I thought it quite likely that some scoundrels from the gangs had murdered them for the sake of their money. This suspicion, however, was very soon dispelled. About three weeks after my arrival, I was roused one morning about daybreak and told that one of my *jemadars*, a fine powerful Sikh named Ungan Singh, had been seized in his tent during the night, and dragged off and eaten.

Naturally I lost no time in making an examination of the place, and was soon convinced that the man had indeed been carried off by a lion, as its <sup>1</sup> " pug " marks

<sup>1</sup> Foot-marks.

were plainly visible in the sand, while the furrows made by the heels of the victim showed the direction in which he had been dragged away. Moreover, the *jemadar* shared his tent with half a dozen other workmen, and one of his bedfellows had actually witnessed the occurrence. He described how, at about midnight, the lion suddenly put its head in at the open tent door and seized Ugan Singh—who happened to be nearest the opening—by the throat. The unfortunate fellow cried out "*Choro*" ("Let go"), and threw his arms up round the lion's neck. The next moment he was gone, and his panic-stricken companions lay helpless, forced to listen to the terrible struggle which took place outside. Poor Ugan Singh must have died hard, but what chance had he? As a coolie gravely remarked, "Was he not fighting with a lion?"

On hearing this dreadful story I at once set out to try to track the animal, and was accompanied by Captain Haslem, who happened to be staying at Tsavo at the time, and who, poor fellow, himself met with a tragic fate very shortly afterwards. We found it an easy matter to follow the route taken by the lion, as he appeared to have stopped several times before beginning his meal. Pools of blood marked these halting-places, where he doubtless indulged in the man-eaters' habit of licking the skin off so as to get at the fresh blood. On reaching the spot where the body had been devoured, a dreadful spectacle presented itself. The ground all round was covered with blood and

## II FIRST APPEARANCE OF MAN-EATERS 7

morsels of flesh and bones, but the unfortunate *jemadar's* head had been left intact, save for the holes made by the lion's tusks on seizing him, and lay a short distance away from the other remains, the eyes staring wide open with a startled, horrified look in them. The place was considerably cut up, and on closer examination we found that two lions had been there and had probably struggled for possession of the body. It was the most gruesome sight I had ever seen. We collected the remains as well as we could and heaped stones on them, the head with its fixed, terrified stare seeming to watch us all the time, for it we did not bury, but took back to camp for identification before the Medical Officer.

Thus occurred my first experience of man-eating lions, and I vowed there and then that I would spare no pains to rid the neighbourhood of the brutes. I little knew the trouble that was in store for me, or how narrow were to be my own escapes from sharing poor Ungan Singh's fate.

### EXERCISES

1 (a) Practise usages in : bring to a standstill, wage war; stop at nothing, protest against, dispel a suspicion, fears, etc; to brave a danger, shared with, seize by the arm.

(b) They happened }  
                                  chanced } to be very good workmen. Find the synonym in the text, and practise two usages of 'chance' and 'happen'.

2 Give synonyms for 'vicinity, many a time, credit, villain, terror-struck, vividly; and antonyms for : ill-timed, discredit (verb) disbelieve

3 "A perfect fool," "a perfect gale", practise this use of 'perfect'

4 Compare carefully passage A with its vernacular equivalent, in the constructions used

5 Write an imaginary story of the carrying off of coolies by lions such as was told to Col Patterson (b)

6 Collect from this passage verbs and adjectives followed by 'in' and use them in suitable sentences

N B—*The beginning and end of each passage referred to in the exercises is indicated by an asterisk.*

### LESSON III

#### A NIGHT VIGIL

THAT same night, taking with me my double-barrelled shot-gun, I sat up in a tree close to the late *jemadar's* tent, hoping that the lions would return to it for another victim. I was followed to my perch by a few of the more terrified coolies, who begged to be allowed to sit up in the tree with me, all the other workmen remained in their tents, but no more doors were left open. Shortly after settling down to my vigil, my hopes of shooting one of the brutes were raised by the sound of their ominous roaring coming closer and closer. Presently this ceased, and quiet reigned for an hour or two, as lions always stalk their prey in complete silence. All at once, however, we heard a great uproar and frenzied cries coming from another camp about half a mile away; we knew then that the lions

had seized a victim there, and that we should see or hear nothing further of them that night.

Next morning I found that one of the brutes had broken into a tent at Railhead Camp--whence we had heard the commotion during the night---and had made off with a poor wretch who was lying there asleep. After a night's rest, therefore, I took up my position in a suitable tree near this tent. \*I did not at all like A the idea of walking the half-mile to the place after dark, but all the same I felt fairly safe, as one of my men carried a bright lamp close behind me \*. He in his turn was followed by another leading a goat, which I tied under my tree in the hope that the lion might be tempted to seize it instead of a coohe. A steady drizzle commenced shortly after I had settled down to my night of watching, and I was soon thoroughly chilled and wet. I stuck to my uncomfortable post, however, hoping to get a shot, but I well remember the feeling of impotent disappointment I experienced when about midnight I heard screams and cries and a heartrending shriek, which told me that the man-eaters had again eluded me and had claimed another victim elsewhere.

At this time the various camps for the workmen were very scattered, so that the lions had a range of some eight miles on either side of Tsavo to work upon, and as their tactics seemed to be to break into a different camp each night, it was most difficult to forestall them.

\*They almost appeared, too, to have an extraordinary B faculty of finding out our plans beforehand, so that no

matter in how likely or how tempting a spot we lay in wait for them, they invariably avoided that particular place and seized their victim for the night from some other camp.\* Hunting them by day, moreover, in such a dense wilderness as surrounded us, was an exceedingly tiring and really foolhardy undertaking. In a thick jungle of the kind round Tsavo the hunted animal has every chance against the hunter, as however careful the latter may be, a dead twig or something of the sort is sure to crackle just at the critical moment and so

C give the alarm \*Still I never gave up hope of some day finding their lair, and accordingly continued to devote all my spare time to crawling about through the undergrowth \* Many a time when attempting to force my way through the thicket I had to be released by my gun-bearer from the fast clutches of the "wait-a-bit thorn"; and often with immense pains I succeeded in tracing the lions to the river after they had seized a victim, only to lose the trail from there onwards, owing to the rocky nature of the ground which they seemed to be careful to choose in retreating to their den.

### EXERCISES

1 (a) Practise usages in : make off with, take up one's position, he didn't relish the idea of , a fairly good lesson, settle down to , stick to

(b) Study use of perch, ominous, stalk, all the same, they in their turn, forestall, tactics, something of the sort, crackle, the critical moment; giving their vernacular equivalents in the sense in which they occur in this lesson



2 Give synonyms for : watch (noun), small rain, evaded me, turmoil, rash, something of the kind, den, *lose* hope, my *dead* husband.

3 Compare in the constructions used, the passages B and C, with their vernacular equivalents

4. (a) " However carefully we might watch " Practise however, ' whatever ' used in this way, and contrast vernacular equivalent usages

(b) " I studied uninterruptedly day and night, *only* to fail in my examination through falling sick " Practise this use of ' only '

(c) Convert passage marked C in the text into a complex sentence

5 Find words of a different part of speech from, but of the same derivation as ' vigilance, identify, drizzle (n ), critic

6. Learn by heart passage A

## LESSON IV

### THE BUNIA'S EXPERIENCE

AT this early stage of the struggle, I am glad to say, the lions were not always successful in their efforts to capture a human being for their nightly meal, and one or two amusing incidents occurred to relieve the general feeling of uneasiness. On one occasion an enterprising *bunia* was riding along on his donkey late one night, when suddenly a lion sprang out on him, knocking over both man and beast. The donkey was badly wounded, and the lion was just about to seize the trader, when in some way or other his claws became entangled in a rope by which two empty oil tins were

A strung across the donkey's neck. \*The rattle and clatter made by these as he dragged them after him gave him such a fright that he turned tail and bolted off into the jungle, to the intense relief of the terrified *bunia*, who quickly made his way up the nearest tree and remained there, shivering with fear, for the rest of the night \*

Shortly after this event, a Greek contractor had an equally marvellous escape. He was sleeping peacefully in his tent one night, when a lion broke in, and seized and made off with the mattress on which he was lying. Though rudely awakened, the Greek was quite unhurt and suffered from nothing worse than a bad fright. This same man, however, met with a melancholy fate not long afterwards. He had been to the hill district to buy cattle, and on the return journey attempted to take a short cut across country to the railway, but perished miserably of thirst on the way.

On another occasion fourteen coolies who slept together in a large tent were one night awakened by a lion suddenly jumping on to the tent and breaking through it. The brute landed with one claw on a coolie's shoulder, which was badly torn, but instead of seizing the man himself, in his hurry he grabbed a large bag of rice which happened to be lying in the tent, and made off with it, dropping it in disgust some little distance away when he realised his mistake.

These, however, were only the earlier efforts of the man-eaters. Later on, as will be seen, nothing flurried or frightened them in the least, and except as food they

showed a complete contempt for human beings \* Having once marked down a victim, they would allow nothing to deter them from securing him, whether he were protected by a thick fence, or inside a closed tent, or sitting near a brightly burning fire \* Shots, shouting and firebrands they alike held in derision.\*

## EXERCISES.

1. Practise . My efforts were unsuccessful, I was unsuccessful in my efforts, just about to, tangle, entangle, nothing better than, to take a short cut

2 Give synonyms for wonderful, roughly, melancholy, to try, grab

3 Learn by heart and compare vernacular equivalents for constructions in passage A

4 Seeing }  
When he saw } that I meant what I said he hastened to obey Practise this use of the present participle B

5 Translate into the vernacular passage C Practise this use of 'alike,' and 'hold in scorn'

6 Form nouns from the same derivation as the following words . protect, secure, contemptuous, complete, flurried, realise, miserable, amusing, relieve, distant

7 Give the meaning of prefixes or suffixes in : secure, relieve, protect, prevent, miserable, realise, distant.

Find three other words with each prefix or suffix, and use them in sentences

8\* Describe the pitching of a tent.

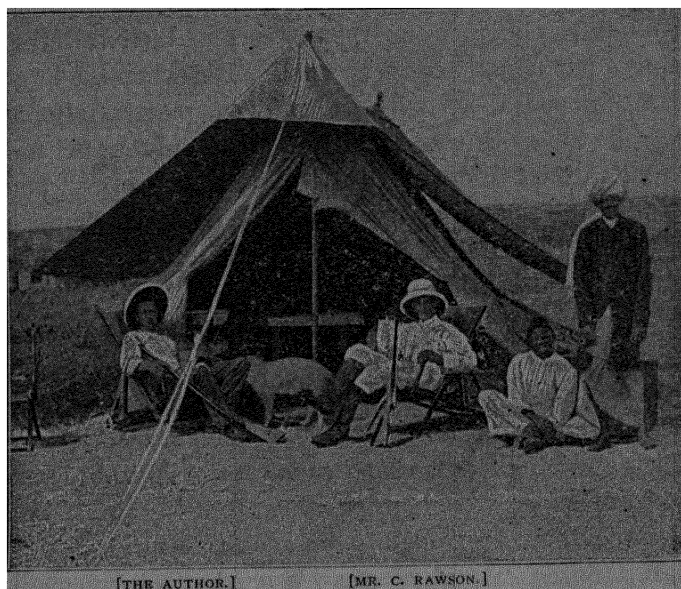
## LESSON V

## BUILDING THORN FENCES

ALL this time my own tent was pitched in an open clearing, unprotected by a fence of any kind round it.

A \*One night when the medical officer, Dr. Rose, was staying with me, we were awakened about midnight by hearing something tumbling about among the tent ropes, but on going out with a lantern we could discover nothing.\* Daylight, however, plainly showed the "pug" marks of a lion, so that on that occasion I fancy one or other of us had a narrow escape. Warned by this experience, I at once arranged to move my quarters, and went to join forces with Dr. Brock, who had just arrived at Tsavo to take medical charge of the district. We shared a hut of palm leaves and boughs, which we had constructed on the eastern side of the river, and we had it surrounded by a circular thorn fence, about seventy yards in diameter, well made and thick and high. Our personal servants also lived within the enclosure, and a bright fire was always kept up throughout the night. B \*For the sake of coolness, Brock and I used to sit out under the verandah of this hut in the evenings; but it was rather trying to our nerves to attempt to read or write there, as we never knew when a lion might spring over the fence, and be on us before we were aware.\* We therefore kept our rifles within easy reach, and cast many an anxious glance out into

the inky darkness beyond the circle of the firelight. On one or two occasions, we found in the morning that the lions had come quite close to the fence ; but fortunately they never succeeded in getting through.



[THE AUTHOR.]

[MR. C. RAWSON.]

"MY OWN TENT WAS PITCHED IN AN OPEN CLEARING."

By this time, too, the camps of the workmen had also been surrounded by thorn fences ; nevertheless the lions managed to jump over or to break through some one or other of these, and regularly every few nights a man was carried off, the reports of the disappearance of this or that workman coming in to me with painful frequency. So long, however, as Railhead

Camp—with its two or three thousand men, scattered over a wide area—remained at Tsavo, the coolies appeared not to take much notice of the dreadful deaths of their comrades. Each man felt, I suppose, that as the man-eaters had such a large number of victims to choose from, the chances of their selecting him in particular were very small. But when the large camp moved ahead with the railway, matters altered considerably. I was then left with only some few hundred men to complete the permanent works ; and as all the remaining workmen were naturally camped together, the attacks of the lions became more noticeable and made a deeper impression. A regular panic consequently took place, and it required all my powers of persuasion to induce the men to stay on. In fact, I succeeded in doing so only by allowing them to stop all regular work until they had built exceptionally thick and high fences round each camp. Within these enclosures fires were kept burning all night, and it was also the duty of the night-watchman to keep clattering half a dozen empty oil tins hung from a convenient tree. This he did by means of a long rope, while sitting in safety within his tent ; and the frightful noise thus made was kept up at frequent intervals during the night in the hopes of terrifying away the man-eaters. In spite of all these precautions, however, the lions continued to make their attacks and the men continued to disappear.

## EXERCISES

1. Practise usages in : warn, to give a warning, to take a warning, to join forces, within reach, every three days, one or other, in particular, take notice of, had it surrounded by . . . , impressed by.

2. Give antonyms for appearance, painful, temporary, protected, regularly, considerably

3 He kept on opening and shutting the door He kept clattering the tins all night Practise this use of 'keep,' for (a) repeated, and (b) prolonged action

4. Learn by heart passage B, and contrast vernacular equivalents Practise use of 'trying to our nerves,' 'trying to my patience'

5 Analyse sentence A.

6. Write a careful description of the picture at the head of this lesson, using the following words : pitch, pointed, flap, pole, centre, peg, sunstroke, crosslegged, smiling, basin, shirt-sleeves, supported, lounging

## LESSON VI

## THE ATTACK ON THE HOSPITAL

WHEN the railhead workmen moved on, their hospital camp was left behind. It stood rather apart from the other camps, in a clearing about three-quarters of a mile from my hut, but was protected by a good thick fence and to all appearance was quite secure. It seemed, however, as if barriers were of no use against the "demons," for before very long one of them found a weak spot in the fence and broke through. On this occasion the Hospital Assistant had a marvellous

escape. Hearing a noise outside, he opened the door of his tent and was horrified to see a great lion standing a few yards away looking at him. The beast made a spring towards him, which gave the Assistant such a fright that he jumped backwards, and in doing so luckily upset a box containing medical stores. This crashed down with such a loud clatter of breaking glass that the lion was startled for the moment and made off to another part of the enclosure. Here, unfortunately, he was more successful, as he jumped on to and broke through a tent in which eight patients were lying. Two of them were badly wounded by his spring, while a third poor wretch was seized and dragged off bodily through the thorn fence. The two wounded coolies were left where they lay, a piece of torn tent having fallen over them; and in this position the doctor and I found them on our arrival soon after dawn next morning. We at once decided to move the hospital closer to the main camp; a fresh site was prepared, a stout hedge built round the enclosure, and all the patients were moved in before nightfall.

As I had heard that lions generally visit recently deserted camps, I decided to sit up all night in the vacated enclosure in the hope of getting an opportunity of shooting one of them, but in the middle of my lonely vigil I heard shrieks and cries coming from the direction of the new hospital, telling me only too plainly that our dreaded foes had once more eluded me. Hurrying to the place at daylight I found that one of



the lions had jumped over the newly erected fence and had carried off the hospital *bhisti* (water-carrier), and that several other coolies had been unwilling witnesses of the terrible scene which took place within the circle of light given by the big camp fire. The *bhisti*, it appears, had been lying on the floor, with his head towards the centre of the tent and his feet nearly touching the side. The lion managed to get its head in below the canvas, seized him by the foot and pulled him out. In desperation the unfortunate water-carrier clutched hold of a heavy box in a vain attempt to prevent himself being carried off, and dragged it with him until he was forced to let go by its being stopped by the side of the tent. He then caught hold of a tent rope, and clung tightly to it until it broke. As soon as the lion managed to get him clear of the tent, he sprang at his throat, and after a few vicious shakes the poor *bhisti's* agonising cries were silenced for ever. The brute then seized him in his mouth, like a huge cat with a mouse, and ran up and down the fence looking for a weak spot to break through. This he presently found and plunged into, dragging his victim with him and leaving shreds of torn cloth and flesh as ghastly evidences of his passage through the thorns. Dr. Brock and I were easily able to follow his track, and soon found the remains about four hundred yards away in the bush. There was the usual horrible sight. •Very little was left of the unfortunate *bhisti*—only the skull, the jaws, a few of the larger bones and a portion

of the palm with one or two fingers attached. On one of these was a silver ring, and this, with the teeth (a relic much prized by certain castes), was sent to the man's widow in India.

Again it was decided to move the hospital; and again, before nightfall, the work was completed, including a still stronger and thicker *boma*. \*When the patients had been moved, I had a covered goods-wagon placed in a favourable position on a siding which ran close to the site which had just been abandoned, and in this Brock and I arranged to sit up that night.\* We left a couple of tents still standing within the enclosure, and also tied up a few cattle in it as bait for the lions, who had been seen in no less than three different places in the neighbourhood during the afternoon. Four miles from Tsavo they had attempted to seize a coolie who was walking along the line. Fortunately, however, he had just time to escape up a tree, where he remained, more dead than alive, until he was rescued by the Traffic Manager, who caught sight of him from a passing train. They next appeared close to Tsavo Station, and a couple of hours later some workmen saw one of the lions stalking Dr Brock as he was returning about dusk from the hospital.

### EXERCISES.

1 Practise usages in . He was forced to let go, catch hold of, to all appearance, catch sight of, he was horrified to see, It stood *rather* away from the other camps.

2. Study and use in sentences the following words : bodily,

scene (distinguish scenery), managed to, shred, relic, siding, bait.

3. Collect words of common derivation with : vacate despair, evident, trace, horrid, vice.

4. Learn by heart passage A. Practise this use of 'had and 'to sit up.'

## LESSON VII

### THE ATTACK ON THE GOODS-WAGON

AFTER dinner the doctor and I set out for the goods-wagon, which was about a mile away from our hut. As we realised later, we did a very foolish thing in taking up our position so late, nevertheless we reached our destination in safety, and settled down to our watch about ten o'clock. We had the lower half of the door of the wagon closed, while the upper half was left wide open for us to see out and we faced, of course, in the direction of the abandoned enclosure, which, however, we were unable to see in the inky darkness. For an hour or two everything was quiet, and the deadly silence was becoming very monotonous and oppressive, when suddenly, to our right, a dry twig snapped, and we knew that an animal of some sort was about. Soon afterwards we heard a dull thud, as if some heavy body had jumped over the fence. The cattle, too, became very uneasy, and we could hear

them moving about restlessly. Then again came dead silence. At this point I proposed to my companion that I should get out of the wagon and lie on the ground close to it, as I could see better in that position should the lion come in our direction with his prey. Brock, however, persuaded me to remain where I was; and a few seconds afterwards I was heartily glad that I had taken his advice, for at that very moment one of the man-eaters—although we did not know it—was quietly stalking us, and was even then almost within A springing distance. \*Orders had been given for the entrance to the enclosure to be blocked up, and accordingly we were listening in the expectation of hearing the lion force his way out through the bushes with his prey \* As a matter of fact, however, the doorway had not been properly closed, and while we were wondering what the lion could be doing inside the enclosure for so long, he was outside all the time, silently examining our position

Presently I fancied I saw something coming very quietly towards us. I feared, however, to trust to my eyes, which by that time were strained by long staring through the darkness, so under my breath I asked Brock whether he saw anything, at the same time covering the dark object as well as I could with my rifle. Brock did not answer; \* he told me afterwards that he, too, thought he had seen something move but was afraid to say so lest I should fire and it turn out to be nothing after all. After this there was

intense silence again for a second or two, then with a sudden bound a huge body sprang at us. "The lion!" I shouted, and we both fired almost at once—not a moment too soon, for in another second the brute would certainly have landed inside the wagon. As it was, he must have swerved off in his spring, probably blinded by the flash and frightened by the noise of the double report which was increased a hundredfold by the echo from the hollow iron roof of the truck. \*Had we not been very much on the alert, he would undoubtedly have got one of us, and we realised that we had had a very lucky and very narrow escape.\* The next morning we found Brock's bullet embedded in the sand close to a footprint; it could not have missed the lion by more than an inch or two. Mine was nowhere to be found.

Thus ended my first meeting with one of the man-eaters.

### EXERCISES

1 Practise usages in ' we set out for the goods-wagon, we took up our position, we faced in the direction of the enclosure, I asked him under my breath, to cover with one's rifle, as a matter of fact, not a moment too soon

2 Study the following words, and practise them in sentences : settle down, heartily glad, persuade, to block up, swerve

3 Give synonyms for ' abandoned, fancied, intense, bound.

4. Translate into the vernacular passage A, contrasting the English with the vernacular usages, and give the vernacular equivalent for ' could be doing ' in the next sentence Learn by heart passage B

5 Explain various methods by which doors may be bolted or fixed open.

6 Write an imaginary short story telling of a narrow escape you once had, using some of the expressions practised in this lesson.

7 " He waited so long " Explain grammatical construction of ' for so long,' and give other examples of the same construction.

## CHAPTER VIII

### THE TRAP

THE lions seemed to have got a bad fright the night Brock and I sat up in wait for them in the goods-wagon, for they kept away from Tsavo and did not trouble us in any way for some considerable time.

A \*In this breathing space which they granted us, it occurred to me that should they renew their attacks, a trap would perhaps offer the best chance of getting at them, and that if I could construct one in which a couple of coolies might be used as bait without being in any danger themselves, the lions would be quite daring enough to enter it in search of them and thus be caught \* I accordingly set to work at once, and in a short time managed to make a sufficiently strong trap out of wooden sleepers, tram-rails, pieces of telegraph wire, and a length of heavy chain. It was divided into two parts—one for the men and one for the lion. A sliding door at one end admitted the

former, and once inside they were perfectly safe, as between them and the lion, if he entered at the other end, ran a cross wall of iron rails only three inches apart, and embedded both top and bottom in heavy wooden sleepers. The door which was to admit the



"WHEN THE TRAP WAS READY, I PITCHED A TENT OVER IT."

lion was, of course, at the opposite end of the building, but otherwise the whole thing was very much like an ordinary rat-trap, except that it was not necessary for the lion to seize the bait in order to send the door clattering down. The door was fastened up against the top of the doorway by a piece of rail, which in turn was kept in its place by a wire fastened to one

end and passing down to a spring concealed in the ground inside the cage. As soon as the lion entered sufficiently far into the trap, he would be bound to tread on the spring ; his weight on this would release the wire, and in an instant down would come the door behind him , and he could not push it out in any way, as it fell into a groove between two rails firmly embedded in the ground

- B** \*In making this trap, which gave us a lot of work, we were rather at a loss for want of tools to bore holes in the rails for the doorway, so as to enable them to be fastened by the wire to the chain \* It occurred to me, however, that a hard-nosed bullet from my rifle would penetrate the iron, and on making the experiment I was glad to find that a hole was made as cleanly as if it had been punched out.

When the trap was ready I pitched a tent over it in order further to deceive the lions, and built an exceedingly strong thorn fence round it. One small entrance was made at the back of the enclosure for the men, which they were to close on going in by pulling a bush after them ; and another entrance just in front of the door of the cage was left open for the lions. For the first few nights I baited the trap myself, but nothing happened except that I had a very sleepless and uncomfortable time, and was badly bitten by mosquitoes.



## EXERCISES.

1 Practise usages in . It occurred to me, to make an experiment, to *make* a door handle *out of* a reel of cotton, to lie in wait for, punch a hole in this paper

2 Study the following words, and give exact vernacular equivalents wooden sleepers, embedded, groove, a cross wall, release, just in front, a breathing space

3 Study sentence A Practise this use of 'should they,' 'if they should,' 'could I,' 'if I could'

4 Form nouns of the same derivation as : enter, divide, admit, necessary, lose, occur, deceive, enclose

5 "Down would come the door" Explain and give other examples of this grammatical construction.

6 Learn by heart passage B, contrasting vernacular constructions Practise : we were at a loss, for want of, enable

7 Describe carefully any trap you know of, or (b) the picture illustrating this lesson.

## LESSON IX

## THE REIGN OF TERROR

As a matter of fact, it was some months before the lions attacked us again, though from time to time we heard of them in other quarters Not long after our night in the goods-wagon, two men were carried off from railhead, while another was taken from a place about ten miles away Within a very short time, this latter place was again visited by the brutes, two more men being seized, one of whom was killed and eaten, and the other so badly mauled that he died within a

few days. As I have said, however, there were no attacks at Tsavo, and the coolies, believing that their dreaded foes had permanently deserted the district, returned to their usual habits and occupations, and life in the camps to its normal routine.

At last we were suddenly startled out of this feeling of security. One dark night the familiar terror-stricken cries and screams awoke the camp, and we knew that the "demons" had returned and had commenced a new list of victims. On this occasion a number of men had been sleeping outside their tents for the sake of coolness, thinking, of course, that the lions had gone for good, when suddenly in the middle of the night one of the brutes was discovered forcing its way through the enclosure. The alarm was at once given, and sticks, stones and firebrands were hurled in the direction of the intruder. All was of no avail, however, for the lion burst into the midst of the terrified group, seized an unfortunate wretch amid the cries and shrieks of his companions, and dragged him off through the thick thorn fence. He was joined outside by the second lion, and so daring had the two brutes become that they did not trouble to carry their victim any further away, but devoured him within thirty yards of the tent where he had been seized. Although several shots were fired in their direction by the *jemadar* of the gang to which the coolie belonged, they took no notice of these and did not attempt to move until their horrible meal was finished. The few

scattered fragments that remained of the body I would not allow to be buried at once, hoping that the lions would return to the spot the following night, and on the chance of this I took up my position at nightfall in a convenient tree. Nothing occurred to break the monotony of my watch, however, and the next morning I learned that the lions had attacked another camp about two miles from Tsavo—for by this time the camps were again scattered, as I had works in progress all up and down the line. \*There the man-eaters had **A** been successful in obtaining a victim, whom, as in the previous instance, they devoured quite close to the camp.\* \*How they forced their way through the enclosure without making a noise was, and still is, a mystery to me; I should have thought that it was next to impossible for an animal to get through at all.\* **B** Yet they continually did so, and without a sound being heard.

After this occurrence, I sat up every night for over a week near likely camps, but all in vain. Either the lions saw me and then went elsewhere, or else I was unlucky, for they took man after man from different places without ever once giving me a chance of a shot at them. This constant night watching was most dreary and fatiguing work, but I felt that it was a duty that had to be undertaken, as the men naturally looked to me for protection. In the whole of my life I have never experienced anything more terrifying than to hear the deep roars of these dreadful monsters

growing gradually nearer and nearer, and to know that some one or other of us was fated to be their victim before morning dawned. Once they reached the vicinity of the camps, the roars completely ceased, and we knew that they were stalking their prey. Shouts would then pass from camp to camp, "*Khabar dar, bhaieon, shaitan ata*" ("Beware, brothers, the devil is coming"), but the warning cries would prove of no avail, and sooner or later agonising shrieks would break the silence and another man would be missing from roll-call next morning.

### EXERCISES

1 Practise usages in . as a matter of fact, within an hour, startled out of, gone for good, man after man, they looked to me for help, the silence was broken

2 Give synonyms for . mauled, normal, begin, previous, tiring, cease

3 Form adjectives of the same derivation as . agony, permanence, security, occasion, alarm, terror, monotony.

4 Analyse sentences A and B.

5 Learn passage B by heart. Practise this use of : how, next to impossible, at all

6 Write complex sentences using the following expressions : from time to time, for the sake of, however, whence, although . . . yet, sooner or later.

7. "Shaitan ata" What word should properly replace 'ata' here? Contrast English sentences in which 'is coming' should be translated by different tenses in the vernacular.

## LESSON X

## THE LIONS BECOME BOLDER

I WAS naturally very disheartened at being defeated in this way night after night, and was soon at my wits' end to know what to do; it seemed as if the lions were really " devils " after all and bore a charmed life. \*As I have said before, tracking them through A the jungle was a hopeless task; but as something had to be done to keep up the men's spirit, I spent many a weary day crawling on my hands and knees through the dense undergrowth around us.\* \*As a matter of B fact, if I had met the lions on any of these expeditions, it was much more likely that they would have added me to their list of victims than that I should have succeeded in killing either of them, as everything would have been in their favour.\* About this time, too, I had many helpers, and several officers—civil, naval and military—came to Tsavo from the coast and sat up night after night in order to get a shot at our daring foes. All of us, however, met with the same ill success, and the lions always seemed capable of avoiding the watchers, while succeeding at the same time in obtaining a victim.

I have a very vivid recollection of one particular night when the brutes seized a man from the railway station and brought him close to my camp to devour I could plainly hear them crunching the bones, and the

sound of their dreadful purring filled the air and rang in my ears for days afterwards. The terrible thing was to feel so helpless ; it was useless to attempt to go out, as of course the poor fellow was dead, and in addition it was so pitch dark as to make it impossible to see anything. Some half a dozen workmen, who lived in a small enclosure close to mine, became so terrified on hearing the lions at their meal that they shouted and implored me to allow them to come inside my enclosure. This I willingly did, but soon afterwards I remembered that one man had been lying ill in their camp, and on making enquiry I found that they had cruelly left him behind alone. I immediately took some men with me to bring him to my enclosure, but on entering his tent I saw by the light of the lantern that the poor fellow was beyond need of safety. He had died of shock at being deserted by his companions.

From this time matters gradually became worse and worse. Hitherto, as a rule, only one of the man-eaters had made the attack, while the other waited outside in the bush ; but now they began to change their methods, entering the enclosures together and each seizing a victim. In this way two porters were killed during the last week of November, one being immediately carried off and devoured. The other was heard moaning for a long time, and when his terrified companions at last summoned up sufficient courage to go to his assistance, they found him stuck fast in

the bushes of the enclosure, through which for once the lion had apparently been unable to drag him. He was still alive when I saw him next morning, but so terribly wounded that he died before he could be got to the hospital.

### EXERCISES

1 Practise the following usages at my wits' end, after all, in addition, he had died of shock, summon up courage, night after night, keep up your spirits

2 Give synonyms for implore, hitherto, daring, vivid, remembrance, besides which, six

3 Write out the verbs in sentence A, with their objects and subjects

4 Translate passage B into the vernacular, study the expressions more likely than, in their favour; analyse the passage

5 Write sentences using appropriate prepositions with: succeed, lack, capable, disheartened, stuck fast.

## LESSON XI

### THE COOLIES STRIKE WORK

WITHIN a few days of this the two brutes made a most ferocious attack on the largest camp in the neighbourhood, which for safety's sake was situated within a stone's-throw of Tsavo Station and close to the Inspector's iron hut. Suddenly in the dead of night the two man-eaters burst in among the terrified workmen, and even from my hut, some distance away, I

could plainly hear the panic-stricken shrieking of the coolies. Then followed cries of "They've taken him; they've taken him," as the brutes carried off their unfortunate victim and began their horrible feast close beside the camp. The Inspector fired over fifty shots in the direction in which he heard the lions, but they were not to be frightened, and calmly lay there until their meal was finished. After examining the spot in the morning, we at once set out to follow the brutes, the Inspector feeling confident that he had wounded one of them, as there was a trail on the sand like that of the toes of a broken limb. After some careful stalking, we suddenly found ourselves in the vicinity of the lions, and were greeted with angry growlings.

A \*Cautiously advancing and pushing the bushes aside, we saw in the gloom what we at first took to be a lion cub,\* closer inspection, however, showed it to be the remains of the unfortunate coolie, which the man-eaters had evidently abandoned at our approach. The legs, one arm and half the body had been eaten, and it was the stiff fingers of the other arm trailing along the sand which had left the marks we had taken to be the trail of a wounded lion. By this time the beasts had retired far into the thick jungle where it was impossible to follow them, so we had the remains of the coolie buried and once more returned home disappointed.

B \*Now the bravest men in the world, much less the ordinary coolie, will not stand constant terrors of



this sort indefinitely.\* The whole district was by this time thoroughly panic-stricken, and I was not at all surprised, therefore, to find on my return to camp that same afternoon that the men had all struck work and were waiting to speak to me. When I sent for them, they flocked to my enclosure in a body and stated that they would not remain at Tsavo any longer for anything or anybody ; they had come from India on an agreement to work for the Government, not to supply food for either lions or " devils." No sooner had they made this announcement than a regular stampede took place. Some hundreds of them stopped the first passing train by throwing themselves on the rails in front of the engine, and then, swarming on to the trucks and throwing in their possessions anyhow, they fled from the accused spot.

After this the railway works were completely stopped; and for the next three weeks practically nothing was done but build " lion-proof " huts for those workmen who had had sufficient courage to remain. These shelters, perched on the top of water-tanks and roofs—anywhere for safety—made a strange and amusing scene, some even went so far as to dig pits inside their tents, into which they descended at night, covering the top over with heavy logs of wood. Every good-sized tree in the camp had as many beds lashed on to it as its branches would bear—and sometimes more. I remember that one night when the camp was attacked, so many men swarmed on to one particular tree that

down it came with a crash, hurling its terror-stricken load of shrieking coolies close to the very lions they were trying to avoid. Fortunately for them, a victim had already been secured, and the brutes were too busy devouring him to pay attention to anything else.

### EXERCISES

1 Practise usages in we took these marks to be the trail, they had struck work, they came in a body, we had the coolie buried.

2 Study expressions at dead of night, I feel confident that, I have no confidence in, at my approach, as I approached.

3 I told them they were to close the door, fire as we would, the lions were not to be frightened Contrast and practise these usages of were, are, is, etc

4 Learn passage B by heart, and contrast its constructions with their vernacular equivalents Parse 'disappointed' in the sentence before this passage

5 "Within a stone's-throw" Practise all the usages of 'within' that occur to you Do you know of any rule for the use of the apostrophe 's' with inanimate objects?

6 Turn passage A into a compound sentence in the past tense

7 "Made a strange and amusing scene" Show by sentences the difference in usage of the words 'scene' and 'scenery'

8 Describe the precautions taken by the coolies who remained at Tsavo against the lions, using the following words. tank, lion-proof, shelters, perched, pits, descend, lash.

## LESSON XII

## THE DISTRICT OFFICER'S NARROW ESCAPE

SOME little time before the flight of the workmen, I had written to Mr. Whitehead, the District Officer, asking him to come up and assist me in my war against the lions, and to bring with him any of his native soldiers that he could spare. \*He replied accepting the invitation, and told me to expect him about dinner-time on December 2, which turned out to be the day after the coolies had run away<sup>1</sup>. His train was due at Tsavo about six o'clock in the evening, so I sent a servant up to the station to meet him and to help in carrying his baggage to the camp. In a very short time, however, my servant rushed back trembling with terror, and informed me that there was no sign of the train or of the railway staff, but that an enormous lion was standing on the station platform. This extraordinary story I did not believe in the least, as by this time the coolies— never remarkable for bravery— were in such a state of fright that if they caught sight even of a dog in the bush, they were sure to imagine it was a lion, but I found out next day that it was an actual fact, and that both stationmaster and signaller had been obliged to take refuge from one of the man-eaters by locking themselves in the station building.

I waited some little time for Mr. Whitehead, but eventually, as he did not put in an appearance I

concluded that he must have postponed his journey until the next day, and so had my dinner in my customary solitary state. During the meal I heard a couple of shots, but paid no attention to them, as rifles were constantly being fired off in the neighbourhood of the camp. Later in the evening, I went out as usual to watch for our elusive foes, and took up my position in a crib made of sleepers which I had built close to a camp which I thought was likely to be attacked. Soon after settling down at my post, I was surprised to hear the man-eaters growling and purring and crunching up bones about seventy yards from the crib. I could not understand what they had found to eat, as I had heard no disturbance in the camps, and I knew by bitter experience that every meal the brutes obtained from us was announced by shrieks and uproar.

**B** \*The only conclusion I could come to was that they had pounced upon some poor unsuspecting native traveller.\* After a time I was able to make out their eyes glowing in the darkness, and I took as careful aim as was possible in the circumstances and fired ; but the only notice they paid to the shot was to carry off whatever they were devouring and to retire quietly over a slight rise which prevented me from seeing them. There they finished their meal at their ease.

As soon as it was daylight, I got out of my crib and went towards the place where I had last heard them.

**C** \*On the way, whom should I meet but my missing

guest, Mr Whitehead, looking very pale and ill, and generally dishevelled

\*“ Where on earth have you come from ? ” I exclaimed. “ Why didn’t you turn up to dinner last night ? ”

“ A nice reception you give a fellow when you invite him to dinner,” was his only reply.

“ Why, what’s up ? ” I asked.

“ That devilish lion of yours nearly did for me last night,” said Whitehead

“ Nonsense, you must have dreamed it ! ” I cried in astonishment.\*

For answer he turned round and showed me his back. “ That’s not much of a dream, is it ? ” he asked.

His clothing was rent by one huge tear from the nape of the neck downwards, and on the flesh there were four great claw marks, showing red and angry through the torn cloth. Without further talk, I hurried him off to my tent, and bathed and dressed his wounds ; and when I had made him considerably more comfortable, I got from him the whole story of the events of the night.

## EXERCISES

1. Practise usages in some little time  $\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{after} \\ \text{before,} \end{array} \right\}$  a state of fright, to put in an appearance, I did not in the least believe this, to come to a conclusion

2 Study the following words or expressions and use them in sentences due, staff, to take refuge, at their ease, to accept an invitation, a slight rise.

3. Form adjectives of the same derivation as : elude, miss, custom, terror, remark, actually, devil, expect.

4. Rewrite passage D in indirect speech , study—to turn up to dinner, he nearly did for me

5 Learn passage A by heart and rewrite it, using direct speech , study and translate . which turned out to be

6 Analyse passage B

7. Compare with the vernacular passage C Practise :  
' who . . but,' as in ' who but he could climb so steep a hill.'

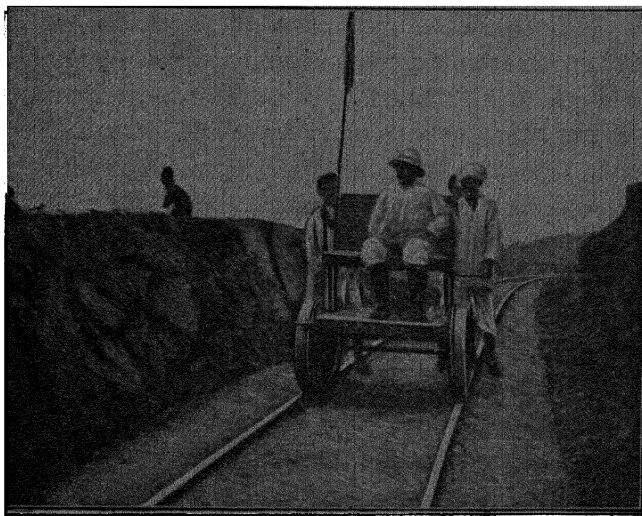
8. Write Mr Whitehead's letter accepting the invitation.

### LESSON XIII

#### ABDULLAH'S HORRIBLE FATE,

It appeared that his train was very late, so that it was quite dark when he arrived at Tsavo Station, from which the track to my camp lay through a small cutting. He was accompanied by Abdullah, his sergeant, who walked close behind him carrying a lighted lamp. All went well until they were about half-way through the gloomy cutting, when one of the lions suddenly jumped down upon them from the high bank, knocking Whitehead over and tearing his back in the manner I had seen. Fortunately, however, he had his rifle with him, and instantly fired. The flash and the loud report must have dazed the lion for a second or two, enabling Whitehead to free himself ; but the next instant the brute pounced like lightning on the unfortunate Abdullah, with whom he at once

made off. All that the poor fellow could say was : " Oh, Master, a lion." As the lion was dragging him over the bank, Whitehead fired again, but without effect, and the brute quickly disappeared into the



WHITEHEAD ON A TROLLEY AT THE EXACT SPOT WHERE THE LION JUMPED UPON HIM.

darkness with his prey. It was, of course, this unfortunate man whom I had heard the lions devouring during the night. \*Whitehead himself had a marvellous A escape ; his wounds were happily not very deep, and caused him little or no inconvenience afterwards.\*

On the same day, December 3, the forces opposed to the lions were further strengthened. Mr. Farquhar, the Superintendent of Police, arrived from the coast

with a score of sepoys to assist in hunting down the man-eaters, whose fame had by this time spread far and wide, and every precaution was taken, his men being posted on the most convenient trees near every B camp. \*Several other officials had also come up on leave to join in the chase, and each of these guarded a likely spot in the same way, Mr. Whitehead sharing my post inside the crib.\* Further, in spite of some chaff, my lion trap was put in thorough working order, and two of the sepoys took up their positions in it as bait

Our preparations were quite complete by nightfall, and we all took up our appointed positions. Nothing happened until about nine o'clock, when to my great satisfaction the intense stillness was suddenly broken by the noise of the door of the trap clattering down. 'At last,' I thought, "one at least of the brutes is done for." But I was doomed to disappointment.

The bait-sepoys had a lamp burning inside their part of the cage, and were each armed with a rifle, with plenty of ammunition. They had also been given strict orders to shoot at once if a lion should enter the trap. Instead of doing so, however they were so terrified when he rushed in and began to lash himself madly against the bars of the cage, that they completely lost their heads and were actually too bewildered to fire. Not for some minutes—not, indeed, until Mr. Farquhar, whose post was close by, shouted at them and cheered them on—did they at all recover themselves. Then when at last they did begin to fire, they



fired at random—anywhere, anyhow. Whitehead and I were at right angles to the direction in which they should have shot, and yet their bullets came whizzing all round us. Altogether they fired over a score of shots, and in the end succeeded only in blowing away one of the bars of the door, thus allowing our prize to make good his escape. How they failed to kill him several times over is, and always will be, a complete mystery to me, as they could have put the ends of their rifles absolutely touching his body. There was, indeed, some blood scattered about the trap, but it was small consolation to know that the brute, whose capture and death seemed so certain, had only been slightly wounded.

Still we were not unduly dejected, and when morning came a hunt was at once arranged. Accordingly we spent the greater part of the day on our hands and knees following the lions through the dense thickets of thorny jungle, but though we heard their growls from time to time, we never succeeded in actually coming up with them. Of the whole party only Farquhar managed to catch a momentary glimpse of one as it bounded over a bush. Two days more were spent in the same manner, and with equal unsucces ; and then Farquhar and his sepoy were obliged to return to the coast. Mr Whitehead also departed for his district, and once again I was left alone with the man-eaters.

## EXERCISES.

1 Practise usages in . all went well, in spite of, to put in working order, one at least (of the brutes) is done for, they completely lost their heads, he made good his escape, far and wide, too hot to walk

2 Study the following expressions and use them in sentences : at random, several times over, but still, altogether

3 Form verbs and nouns of the same derivation as . able, strong, bewildering, consoling, equal, completely

4 Learn passage A by heart , study and compare vernacular for following constructions he himself, to cause inconvenience, little or no

5 Translate passage B into the vernacular, contrasting constructions

6 Describe the picture of Mr Whitehead on a trolley, using the following words curve, banks, seated, dressed in, accompanied by, rails, distance, indistinct

## LESSON XIV

## A MISERABLE FAILURE

A DAY or two after the departure of my allies, as I was leaving my enclosure soon after dawn on December 9, I saw a man running excitedly towards me, shouting out " Lion ! Lion ! " and every now and again looking behind him as he ran. On questioning him I found that the lions had tried to snatch a man from the camp by the river, but failing in this had seized and killed one of the donkeys, and were at that moment busy devouring it not far off. Now was my chance.

I rushed for the heavy rifle which Farquhar had kindly left with me for use in case an opportunity such as this should arise, and, led by the messenger, I started most carefully to stalk the lions, who, I sincerely hoped, were engrossed in their meal. \*I was getting A on splendidly, and could just make out the outline of one of them through the dense bush, when unfortunately my guide snapped a rotten branch. \*The wily beast heard the noise, growled his defiance, and disappeared in a moment into a patch of even thicker jungle close by. In desperation at the thought of his escaping me once again, I crept hurriedly back to the camp, summoned the workmen who were there and told them to bring all the tom-toms, tin cans and other noisy instruments of any kind that could be found. As quickly as possible I posted them in a half-circle round the thicket, and gave the head *jemadar* instructions to start a beating of all the tom-toms and cans at once as soon as he judged that I had had time to get round to the other side. I then crept round by myself and soon found a good position and one which the lion was most likely to pass, as it was in the middle of a broad path leading straight from the place where he was concealed. I lay down behind a small ant hill, and waited expectantly. Very soon I heard a tremendous din being raised by the advancing line of coolies, and almost immediately, to my intense joy, out into the open path stepped a huge maneless lion. It was the first occasion during all these trying months

upon which I had had a fair chance at one of these brutes, and my satisfaction on seeing him was unbounded.

Slowly he advanced along the path, stopping every  
B few seconds to look round. \*I was only partly concealed from view, and if his attention had not been so fully occupied by the noise behind him, he must have observed me \* As he was ignorant of my presence, however, I let him approach to within about fifteen yards of me, and then covered him with my rifle. The moment I moved to do this, he caught sight of me, and seemed much astonished at my sudden appearance, for he stuck his forefeet into the ground, threw himself back on his haunches and growled savagely. As I covered his brain with my rifle, I felt that at last I had him absolutely at my mercy, but . . . never trust an untried weapon ! I pulled the trigger, and to my horror heard the dull snap that tells of a misfire

Worse was to follow I was so taken aback by this accident that I entirely forgot to fire the left barrel, and lowered the rifle from my shoulder with the intention of reloading— if I should be given time Fortunately for me, the lion was so distracted by the terrific din and uproar of the coolies behind him that instead of springing on me, as might have been expected, he  
C bounded aside into the jungle again. \*By this time I had collected my wits, and just as he jumped I fired the left barrel \* An answering angry growl told me that he had been hit ; but nevertheless he succeeded

once more in getting clear away, for although I tracked him for some little distance, I eventually lost his trail in a rocky patch of ground.

Bitterly did I curse the hour in which I had relied on a borrowed weapon, and in my disappointment and vexation I abused owner, maker, and rifle alike. \*The lions seemed to bear charmed lives.\*

### EXERCISES

1 Practise usages in I am busy working, every now and again, in case I should have a chance to use it, I had him at my mercy, I was so taken aback by his words that

2 Give synonyms for snatch, wily, dense, desperation, summon, likely, hidden, noise, absorbed

3 Use in sentences pay attention to, in despair, by myself, to my joy, fully occupied

4 Learn by heart passage A Practise the expressions I am getting on well, I could just make out a lion in the darkness

5 Paraphrase passage B, and practise similar 'it' sentences Contrast vernacular equivalent

6 Form ten adjectives from nouns by adding the suffix 'ness' What does it mean?

7 Translate into the vernacular passage C

8. Describe a tom-tom or a rifle, and explain how it is used.

### LESSON XV

#### ANOTHER NIGHT WATCH

AFTER this miserable failure there was, of course, nothing to do but to return to camp. \* Before doing

so, however, I went to look at the dead donkey, which I found to have been only slightly devoured at the quarters. It is a curious fact that lions always begin at the tail of their prey and eat upwards towards the head. As their meal had thus been interrupted evidently at the very beginning, I felt pretty sure that one or other of the brutes would return to the carcase at nightfall. Accordingly, as there was no tree of any kind close at hand, I had a staging erected some ten A feet away from the body \*This *machan* was about twelve feet high and was composed of four poles stuck into the ground and inclined towards each other at the top, where a plank was lashed to serve as a seat.\* Further, as the nights were still pitch dark, I had the donkey's carcase secured by strong wires to a neighbouring stump, \*so that the lions might not be able to B drag it away before I could get a shot at them.\*

At sundown, therefore, I took up my position on my airy perch, and much to the disgust of my gun-bearer, Mahina, I decided to go alone. I would gladly have taken him with me, indeed, but he had a bad cough, and I was afraid lest he should make any unintentional noise or movement which might spoil all. Darkness fell almost immediately, and everything became extraordinarily still. The solitude and stillness had their effect on me, and I gradually fell into C a dreamy mood. \*Suddenly I was startled out of my reverie by the snapping of a twig and, straining my ears for a further sound, I fancied I could hear the

rustling of a large body forcing its way through the bush.\* “The man-eater,” I thought to myself; “surely to-night my luck will change and I shall get one of the brutes.” Profound silence again succeeded; I sat on my perch like a statue, every nerve tense with excitement. Very soon, however, all doubt as to the presence of the lion was dispelled. A deep long-drawn sigh—sure sign of hunger—came up from the bushes, and the rustling commenced again as he cautiously advanced. In a moment or two a sudden stop, followed by an angry growl, told me that my presence had been noticed; and I began to fear that disappointment awaited me once more.

But no; matters quickly took an unexpected turn. The hunter became the hunted; and instead of either making off or coming for the bait prepared for him, the lion began to stalk *me*! For about two hours he horrified me by slowly creeping round and round my machan, gradually edging his way nearer and nearer. Every moment I expected him to rush it; and the staging had not been strongly enough constructed to withstand such an attack. If one of the rather flimsy poles should break, or if the lion could spring the twelve feet which separated me from the ground . . . the thought was scarcely a pleasant one. I began to feel distinctly uncomfortable, and heartily repented my folly in having placed myself in such a dangerous position. I kept perfectly still, however, hardly daring even to blink my eyes; but the long-continued strain

was tiring me, and my feelings may be better imagined than described when about midnight suddenly something came flop and struck me on the back of the head. For a moment I was so terrified that I nearly fell off the plank, as I thought that the lion had sprung on me from behind. Regaining my senses in a second or two, I realised that I had been hit by nothing more terrible than an owl, which had doubtless mistaken me for the branch of a tree—not a very alarming thing to happen in ordinary circumstances, I admit. but coming at the time it did, it almost paralysed me. The start which I could not help giving was immediately answered by a deep growl from below.

### EXERCISES

1. Practise usages in I feel pretty sure, close at hand, at the very end, some ten feet off, much to the disgust of, I had a staging erected

2 Find synonyms in the text for : fastened, near by, loneliness, deep, followed, tight, weak, a dead body

3 What is a stump ? Collect names for the different parts of a tree

4 Learn passage A by heart Practise uses of ' inclined, this box will serve as a cupboard

5 Translate passage C into the vernacular, comparing constructions

6 Write three complex sentences, using the grammatical construction illustrated in sentence B so that the lions might ... before . could

7. Describe any scene after nightfall in an Indian village.



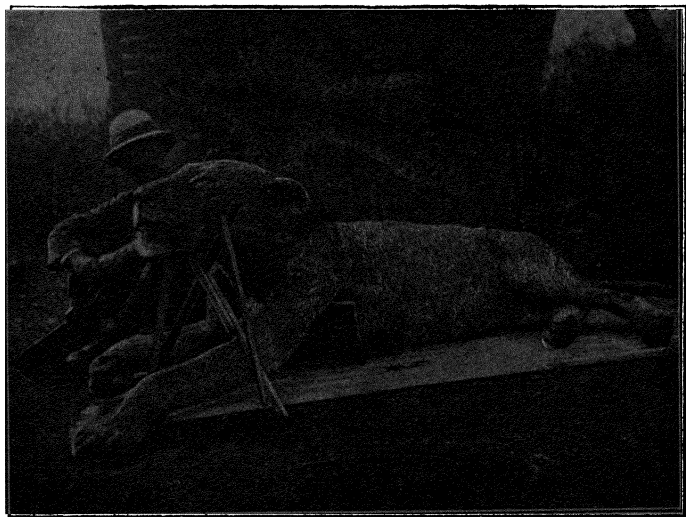
# LESSON XVI

## DEATH OF THE FIRST MAN-EATER

AFTER this I again kept as still as I could, though absolutely trembling with excitement ; and in a short while I heard the lion begin to creep stealthily towards me. \*I could barely make out his form as he crouched among the whitish undergrowth , but I saw enough for my purpose, and before he could come any nearer, I took careful aim and pulled the trigger \* The sound of the shot was at once followed by a most terrific roar, and then I could hear him leaping about in all directions I was no longer able to see him, however, as his first bound had taken him into the thick bush ; but to make sure of killing him I kept firing away in the direction in which I heard him plunging about At length came a series of mighty groans, gradually changing into deep sighs, and finally ceasing altogether ; and I felt convinced that one of the “ devils ” who had so long worried us would trouble us no more.

As soon as I ceased firing, a tumult of inquiring voices was borne across the dark jungle from the men in camp about a quarter of a mile away. I shouted back that I was safe and sound, and that one of the lions was dead, whereupon such a mighty cheer went up from all the camps as must have astonished the dwellers of the jungle for miles around. Soon I saw scores of lights twinkling through the bushes . every

man in camp turned out, and with tom-toms beating and horns blowing came running to the scene. They surrounded my machan, and to my amazement threw themselves on the ground before me, saluting me with cries of "*Mabarak! Mabarak!*" which I believe

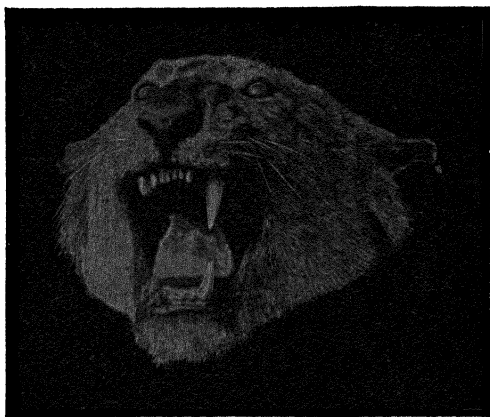


"HIS LENGTH FROM TIP OF NOSE TO TIP OF TAIL WAS NINE FEET EIGHT INCHES."

means "blessed one" or "saviour." All the same, I refused to allow any search to be made that night for the body of the lion, in case his companion might be close by; besides, it was possible that he might be still alive, and capable of making a last spring. Accordingly we all returned in triumph to the camp, where great rejoicings were kept up for the remainder of the

night, the African natives celebrating the occasion by an especially wild and savage dance.

For my part, I anxiously awaited the dawn; and even before it was thoroughly light I was on my way to the eventful spot, as I could not completely persuade myself even yet that the "devil" might not have



HEAD OF THE FIRST MAN-EATER.

eluded me in some mysterious way. \*Happily my fears B proved groundless, and I was relieved to find that my luck had really turned at last.\* I had scarcely traced the blood for more than a few paces when, on rounding a bush, I was startled to see a huge lion right in front of me, seemingly alive and crouching for a spring. On looking closer, however, I satisfied myself that he was really and truly stone-dead, whereupon my followers crowded round, laughed and danced, and

shouted with joy like children, and bore me in triumph shoulder-high round the dead body. These thanksgiving ceremonies being over, I examined the body and found that two bullets had taken effect—one close behind the left shoulder, evidently penetrating the heart, and the other in the off hind leg. The prize was indeed one to be proud of; his length from tip of nose to tip of tail was nine feet eight inches, he stood three feet nine inches high, and it took eight men to carry him back to camp. The only blemish was that the skin was much scored by the enclosure thorns through which he had so often forced his way in carrying off his victims.

The news of the death of one of the dreaded man-eaters soon spread far and wide over the country. telegrams of congratulation came pouring in, and scores of people flocked from up and down the railway to see the skin for themselves.

### EXERCISES

1 Practise usages in every man turned out, 1 for my part, *it took* six men to build this house, telegrams *came pouring in*, in the *off* hind leg, to celebrate an occasion

2 Practise orally in sentences to make sure, besides, scarcely, far and wide, for miles around, capable of, whereupon, all the same, lest

3 Give synonyms for and form verbs from . conviction, cessation, astonishment, elusion, penetration, inquiry

4 Translate passage B into the vernacular Practise the verbs in this sentence in other sentences

5 Learn passage A by heart, and analyse it

6. Write a description of the lion, with the help of the two pictures in this lesson, or Write in direct speech a conversation between Col. Patterson and a man from his camp who saw the lion dead.

## LESSON XVII

### A LION ROUND THE RAILWAY INSPECTOR'S BUNGALOW

It must not be imagined that with the death of this lion our troubles at Tsavo were at an end, his companion was still at large, and very soon began to make us unpleasantly aware of the fact. Only a few nights passed before he made an attempt to get at the Railway Inspector, climbing up the steps of his bungalow and prowling round the verandah. The Inspector, hearing the noise and thinking it was a drunken coolie, shouted angrily "Go away!" but, fortunately for him, did not attempt to come out or to open the door. Thus disappointed in his attempt to obtain a meal of human flesh, the lion seized a couple of the Inspector's goats and devoured them there and then.

On hearing of this occurrence, I determined to sit up the next night near the Inspector's bungalow. Fortunately there was a vacant iron shed close at hand, with a convenient loophole in it *for firing from*; and outside this I placed three full-grown goats as bait, tying them to a piece of rail, weighing about 250 lbs.

The night passed uneventfully until just before day-break, when at last the lion turned up, pounced on one of the goats and made off with it, at the same time dragging away the others, rail and all. I fired several shots in his direction, but it was pitch dark and quite impossible to see anything, so I only succeeded in hitting one of the goats.

Next morning I started off in pursuit and was joined by some others from the camp. I found that the trail of the goats and rail was easily followed, and we soon came up, about a quarter of a mile away, to where the lion was still busy at his meal. He was concealed in some thick bush and growled angrily on hearing our approach; finally, as we got closer, he suddenly made a charge, rushing through the bushes at a great pace. In an instant, every man of the party scrambled hastily up the nearest tree, with the exception of one of my assistants, who stood steadily by me throughout. The brute, however, stopped in the middle of his charge, and on throwing stones into the bushes where we had last seen him, we guessed by the silence that he had slunk off. We therefore advanced cautiously, and on getting up to the place discovered that he had indeed escaped us, leaving two of the goats scarcely touched.

Thinking that in all probability the lion would return as usual to finish his meal, I had a very strong scaffolding put up a few feet away from the dead goats, and took up my position on it before dark. On this occasion I brought my gun-bearer, Mahina, to take a turn at

watching, as I was by this time worn out for want of sleep, having spent so many nights on the look-out. I was just dozing off comfortably when suddenly I felt my arm seized, and on looking up saw Mahina pointing in the direction of the goats. "*Sher!*" ("Lion!") was all he whispered. I grasped my double-barrelled gun, which I had loaded, and waited patiently. In a few moments I was rewarded, for as I watched the spot where I expected the lion to appear, there was a rustling among the bushes and I saw him creep out stealthily into the open and pass almost directly beneath us. I fired both barrels almost together into his shoulder, and to my joy could see him *go down* under the force of the blow. Quickly I reached for my rifle, but before I could use it he was out of sight among the bushes, and I had to fire after him quite *at random*. Nevertheless I was confident of getting him in the morning, and accordingly set out as soon as it was light. For over a mile there was no difficulty in following the blood-trail, and as he had rested several times I felt sure that he had been badly wounded. In the end, however, my hunt proved fruitless, for after a time the traces of blood ceased and the surface of the ground became rocky, so that I was no longer able to follow the trail.

#### EXERCISES

1. Practise usages in at last the lion turned up, in all probability, now you *take a turn* at reading, we *set out* at nine o'clock.

2 Give synonyms for at large, intoxicated, vacant, fruitless, at a great pace, out of sight

3 Study and use in sentences 

that	}	there and then,
aware of,		

 in pursuit of, throughout, worn out, joined by, a loop-hole.

4 Parse words in italics in this lesson

5 Use 'charge' as (1) a noun, (2) a verb, in as many different meanings as you know

6 Give the railway Inspector's story as reported to Col. Patterson by a third person

## LESSON XVIII

### THE LION WOUNDED

As it happened, there was no sign of our enemy for about ten days after this, and we began to hope that he had died of his wounds in the bush. All the same we still took every precaution at night, and it was fortunate that we did so, as otherwise at least one more victim would have been added to the list. For on the night of December 27, I was suddenly aroused by a terrified shouting from my trolley men, who slept in a tree close outside my enclosure, that a lion was **A** trying to get at them. \*It would have been madness to have gone out, as the moon was hidden by dense clouds and it was absolutely impossible to see anything more than a yard in front of one; so all I could do was to fire off a few shot just to frighten the brute away.\* This apparently had the desired effect, for the

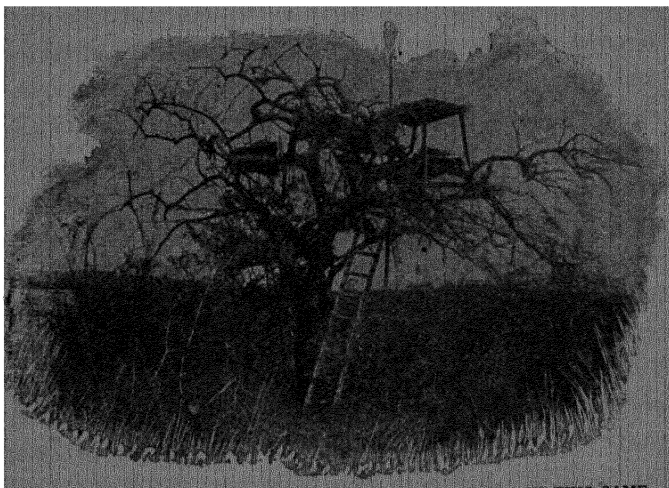


men were not further troubled that night ; but the man-eater had evidently prowled about for some time, for we found in the morning that he had gone right into every one of their tents, and round the tree was a regular ring of his footmarks

\*The following evening I took up my position in this B same tree, in the hope that he would make another attempt.\* The night began badly, as while climbing up to my perch I very nearly put my hand on a venomous snake which was lying coiled round one of the branches. As may be imagined, I came down again very quickly, but one of my men managed to kill it with a long pole \*Fortunately the night was clear B and cloudless, and the moon made everything almost as bright as day\* I kept watch until about 2 a m., when I roused Mahina to take his turn. For about an hour I slept peacefully with my back to the tree, and then woke suddenly with an uncomfortable feeling that something was wrong Mahina, however, was on the alert, and had seen nothing , and although I looked carefully round us on all sides, I too could discover nothing unusual. Only half satisfied, I was about to lie back again, when I fancied I saw something move a little way off among the low bushes On gazing intently at the spot for a few seconds, I found I was not mistaken. It was the man-eater, cautiously stalking us.

The ground was fairly open round our tree, with only a small bush here and there , and from our

position it was a most fascinating sight to watch this great brute stealing stealthily round us, taking advantage of every hiding-place as he came. \*His skill showed that he was an old hand at the terrible game of man-hunting: so I determined to run no undue risk of losing him this time.\* I accordingly waited until



"THE FOLLOWING EVENING I TOOK UP MY POSITION IN THIS SAME TREE."

he got quite close—about twenty yards away—and then fired my rifle at his chest. I heard the bullet strike him, but unfortunately it had no great effect, for with a fierce growl he turned and made off with great long bounds. Before he disappeared from sight, however, I managed to have three more shots at him, and another growl told me that the last of these had also taken effect.

We awaited daylight with impatience, and at the first glimmer of dawn we set out to hunt him down. I took a native tracker with me, so that I was free to keep a good look-out, while Mahina followed immediately behind with a second rifle. Splashes of blood being plentiful, we were able to get along quickly; and we had not proceeded more than a quarter of a mile through the jungle when suddenly a fierce warning growl was heard right in front of us. Looking cautiously through the bushes, I could see the man-eater glaring out in our direction, and showing his teeth in an angry snarl. I at once took careful aim and fired. Instantly he sprang out and made a most determined charge down on us. I fired again and knocked him over; but in a second he was up once more and coming for me as fast as he could in his crippled condition. A third shot had no apparent effect, so I put out my hand for the second rifle, hoping to stop him with it. To my dismay, however, it was not there. \*The D terror of the sudden charge had proved too much for Mahina, and both he and the rifle were by this time well on their way up a tree.\* In the circumstances there was nothing to do but follow suit, which I did without loss of time; and but for the fact that one of my shots had broken a hind leg, the brute would most certainly have had me. Even as it was, I had barely time to swing myself up out of his reach before he arrived at the foot of the tree.

## EXERCISES

1. Practise usages in ' I shall *take the precaution* of wearing my coat, I was *about to sit* down when , to keep a look-out, cottages were *dotted* here and there upon the plain, there was *nothing to do but to follow suit*

2 Use in sentences to take advantage of, to have an effect on, immediately in front, cripple, to my dismay, barely time

3 Translate passage C into the vernacular. Practise : to run a risk.

4 Learn passage D by heart Practise : This proved too much for me, well on his way

5 Rewrite passages B in the future tense

6 Make a complete complex sentence of passage A

7. " But for his help you would have been ruined " Rewrite as a full conditional sentence

8 Explain from the picture Col. Patterson's arrangements for keeping a look-out

## LESSON XIX

## DEATH OF THE SECOND MAN-EATER

WHEN the lion found he was too late, he started to limp back to the thicket ; but by this time I had seized the rifle from Mahina, and the first shot I fired from it seemed to finish him, for he fell over and lay motionless. Rather foolishly, I at once scrambled A down from the tree and walked towards him. \*To my surprise and no little alarm he jumped up and attempted another charge.\* This time, however, a bullet in the

chest and another in the head finished him for good and all ; he dropped down not five yards away from me, and died gamely, biting savagely at a branch which had fallen to the ground

By this time all the workmen in camp, attracted by the sound of the firing, had arrived on the scene, and so great was their resentment against the brute who had killed such numbers of their comrades that it was only with the greatest difficulty that I could restrain them from tearing the dead body to pieces. Eventually, amid the wild rejoicings of the natives and coolies, I had the lion carried to my enclosure, which was close at hand. On examination we found no less than six bullet holes in the body, and embedded only a little way in the flesh of the back was the shot which I had fired into him from the scaffolding about ten days previously. He measured nine feet six inches from tip of nose to tip of tail, and stood three feet eleven and a half inches high ; but, as in the case of his companion, the skin was disfigured by being deeply scored all over by the thorns.

The news of the death of the second " devil " soon spread far and wide over the country, and natives actually travelled from up and down the line to have a look at my trophies and at the " devil-killer " as they called me. Best of all, the coolies who had run away came flocking back to Tsavo, and much to my relief, work was resumed and we were never again troubled by man-eaters. \*It was amusing, indeed, to B

notice the change which took place in the attitude of the workmen towards me after I had killed the two lions.\* Instead of wishing to murder me, as they once did, they could not now do enough for me, and as a token of their gratitude they presented me with a beautiful silver bowl, as well as with a long poem written in Hindustani describing all our trials and my ultimate victory. This bowl I shall always consider my most highly prized and hardest won trophy. The inscription on it reads as follows .

SIR,—We, your Overseer, Timekeepers, *Mistaris* and Workmen, present you with this bowl as a token of our gratitude to you for your bravery in killing two man-eating lions at great risk to your own life, thereby saving us from the fate of being devoured by these terrible monsters who nightly broke into our tents and took our fellow-workers from our side. In presenting you with this bowl, we all add our prayers for your long life, happiness and prosperity. We shall ever remain, Sir, Your grateful servants,

*Baboo PURSHOTAM HURJEE PURMAR,*  
*Overseer and Clerk of Works,*  
*on behalf of your Workmen.*

Dated at Tsavo, *January 30, 1899*

### EXERCISES.

1. Practise usages in . much to my relief, present with, present to, restrain from
- 2 Give synonyms for : resentment, comrade, amid, ten days before, final What is meant by.—(1) 'a trophy' ? (2) "Now there was nothing they were not ready to do for me."
- 3 Form words of the same derivation as : restraint, grateful, beauty, describe, consider, inscribe, prosper Give meanings of prefixes and suffixes in these words, and give other words illustrating the same use of them
- 4 Use in sentences : close at hand, as a token of, on behalf of.
5. Translate into the vernacular passage B. Practise : his attitude towards me is friendly.
6. Write a short speech made by Col Patterson thanking the workmen for their gift, using the following words : pleasure, receive, token, gratitude, sincerely, troubles, over for good, bowl, consider, trophy, accept, hearty thanks.
7. Turn passage A into a complex sentence.

## LESSON XX

### THE MAN-EATERS' DEN

THERE were some rocky-looking hills lying to the south-west of Tsavo which I was particularly anxious to explore, so on one occasion when work had been stopped for the day owing to lack of material, I set off for them, accompanied by Mahina and a Punjabi coolie, who was so stout that he went by the name of Mota (*i.e.* "Fattie"). In the course of my little excursions round Tsavo I gradually discovered that I

was nearly always able to make my way in any direction I wished by following certain well-defined animal paths, which I mapped out bit by bit during my explorations. On this occasion, for instance, as soon as we had crossed the river and had struck into the jungle, we were fortunate enough to find a path leading in the right direction, which greatly facilitated our progress. As we were making our way along this path through the dry bed of a nullah, I happened to notice that the sandy bottom sparkled here and there where the sunbeams penetrated the dense foliage. This at once filled my head with thoughts of precious stones, and as the spot looked likely enough, I started to dig vigorously at the gravel with my hunting knife. After a few minutes of this work, I came across what I at first took to be a magnificent diamond sparkling in the damp sand : it was about half an inch long. I tested the stone on my watch glass and found that it cut my initials quite easily, and though I knew that quartz would do this as well, it did not seem to me to have the appearance of any quartz I had ever seen. For a moment or two I was greatly delighted with my discovery, and began to have rosy dreams of a diamond mine ; but I am sorry to say that on closer examination and testing I was forced to the conclusion that my find was not a diamond, though unlike any other mineral I had ever come across.

My hopes of rapidly becoming a millionaire having thus been dashed to the ground, we proceeded on our



way, getting further and further into the depths of a gloomy forest. As I followed up the ravine, walking stealthily along in the delightful shade of the overhanging palms, I observed on my left a little nullah which opened out of the main channel through a confused mass of jungle and creeper. Through this tangle there was a well-defined archway, doubtless made by the regular passage of wild beasts, so I decided to enter and explore what lay beyond. <sup>A</sup> I had not gone very far when I came upon a big bay scooped out of the bank by the stream <sup>\*</sup> when in flood and carpeted with fine, soft sand, in which were the indistinct tracks of numberless animals. In one corner of this bay, close under an overhanging tree, stood a little sandy hillock, and on looking over the top of this I saw on the other side a fearsome-looking cave which seemed to run back for a considerable distance under the rocky bank. Round the entrance and inside the cavern I was thunderstruck to find a number of human bones, with here and there a copper bangle such as the natives wear. Beyond all doubt, the man-eaters' den! In this manner, and quite by accident, I stumbled upon the lair of these once-dreaded "demons," which I had spent so many days searching for through the exasperating and interminable jungle during the time when they terrorised Tsavo. I had no inclination to explore the gloomy depths of the interior, but thinking that there might possibly still be a lioness or cub inside, I fired a shot or two into the cavern through a hole in

the roof. Save for a swarm of bats, nothing came out ; and after taking a photograph of the cave, I gladly left the horrible spot, thankful that the savage brutes which once inhabited it were no longer at large.

### EXERCISES.

1. Practise usages in · I *set off for* the hills. It seemed a likely spot. My hopes were *dashed to the ground*. I was *thunderstruck to find* bones.

2 Give synonyms for : well-defined, facilitate, thunder-struck, bangle, interminable, penetrate, dense

3. " An evil-looking face appeared at the window " Combine other suitable adjectives with ' looking,' and use them in sentences

4 Use in sentences · owing to, in the course of, nearly always, bit by bit, to map out, to come across, save for, at large

5. Form nouns from · explore, require, proceed, deep, enter, exasperate, dense, conclude

6 Rewrite passage A, making the principal and subordinate clauses change places

7 Describe an imaginary exploration of the den, using the following words and expressions to my surprise, gloomy looking, hardly, hit upon, horror-struck, missed fire, turned tail, safe and sound.

## LESSON XXI

### A FRUITLESS SEARCH FOR WATER

SHORTLY after I took charge at railhead we entered a great tract of grass country crossed here and there by dry ravines, along the sun-baked banks of which

a few stunted trees—the only ones to be seen—struggle to keep themselves alive.

While crossing this dry expanse, the greatest difficulty against which I had to fight was that of procuring sufficient water for the three thousand workmen employed about railhead, for not a drop could be obtained on the way, nor could we hope for any until we had got to the other side of the plain and had reached the Athi River, which could not be accomplished under a couple of months. \*As we progressed onwards into A the waterless belt, this became a very serious matter indeed, as any breakdown in the supply would have had the most disastrous consequences among so large a body of men working all day under the blazing sun of a tropical climate.\* Every day two trainloads of water in great tanks were brought up from the last stream we had passed, which, of course, daily fell further to the rear. This caused considerable delay, for the line was blocked all the time the water was being pumped into the tanks, and consequently no material for construction could come through. \*A B good deal of time was also wasted, when the trains returned to railhead, in distributing the water to the workmen, who often quarrelled and fought in their eagerness to get it \* At first I had most of the tank-filling done by night, but on one occasion a lion came unpleasantly close to the men working the pump, and so night work had to be abandoned. The coolies themselves were so anxious, indeed, to get a plentiful supply

of water, that once or twice some of the more daring spirits among them ventured to go out on to the plains in search of waterholes, which, by reason of the many animals about, we knew must exist somewhere. The only result of these expeditions, however, was that three of these men never returned ; what happened to them is not known to this day.

When we had proceeded some distance across this dry land, and when I was experiencing to the full the disadvantage and delay caused by my tank trains, a native from some remote corner of the plains—with nothing by way of dress but a small piece of cowhide thrown over his left shoulder—came to my tent door one day and squatted down on his heels in the native  
C fashion. On being asked his business, “ I have heard,” he replied, “ that the Great Master wants water ; I can show it to him ” \* This was good news, if it could be relied upon , so I questioned him closely, and heard that some time previously—exactly how long ago I could not gather—he had been in the neighbourhood and had succeeded in finding water. I asked if the place was far away, and got the reply, “ A little distance ” So I decided to start very early next morning on a search for this pond—for such my informant described it to be.

In the morning I started off in good time, taking my rifle and accompanied by Mahina with the shot-gun, and by another Indian carrying the necessary food and water. Our guide, whose name we found to be Lungow,

seemed to be quite certain of his way, and led us across the rolling plains more or less in the direction in which the railway was to run, but some miles to the right of its centre-line. The march was full of interest, for on the way we passed within easy range of herds of deer, zebra, and other wild animals. I was out strictly on business, however, and did not attempt a shot, reserving that pleasure for the homeward trip. Late in the morning we arrived at Lungow's pond--a circular dip about eighty yards across, which without doubt had contained water very recently, but which, as I expected to find, was now quite dry. A considerable number of bones lay scattered round it, whether of animals which had died of thirst or had been killed by others I could not say. Our guide appeared very much upset when he found the pond empty, and made many exclamations in his peculiar language.

### EXERCISES

1 Practise usages in : I cannot finish this *under* two hours. He seemed *very upset* when he read my letter. As each man became tired he *fell to the rear* of the procession. I cannot *gather from* his letter whether he is coming or not. He was *struggling* to escape.

2 Give synonyms for : breakdown, consequence, rear, abandon, daring, remote, previously, reserve, circular.

3 Form words of the same derivation as disastrous, accomplish, employ, distribute, inform. Give three words apiece illustrating the prefixes used.

4 Turn sentence C into indirect speech, and paraphrase 'his business' as an indirect interrogative clause of three words.

5. Translate sentence A into the vernacular, and convert into a complex sentence with an ' if ' clause the passage " any breakdown . . consequences "

6 Learn passage B by heart. Practise : to waste time over, to waste time in

7 Describe any mine or cave or underground dwelling you know of.

## LESSON XXII

### LIONS ON THE ATHI PLAINS

OUR search for water having thus proved a failure, I determined to try my luck with the game. Our guide and the Indian were sent back to camp, while Mahina and I made a big round from the dried-up water-hole.

We had not gone far on our way towards the home camp when I thought I observed something of a reddish colour moving in a patch of long grass, a good distance A to our left front. \*I asked Mahina if he could make out what it was,\* but he was unable to do so, and before I could get my field-glasses to look through, the animal, whatever it was, had disappeared into the grass. I kept my eye on the spot, however, and we gradually approached it. When we were about a hundred yards off, the reddish object again appeared ; and I saw that it was nothing less than the shaggy head of a lion peeping over the long grass. This time Mahina also saw what it was, and called out, " Look, Master, a B lion ! " \*I whispered to him to be quiet and to take

no notice of him, while I tried my best to follow my own advice.\* So we kept on, edging up towards the beast, but apparently oblivious of his presence, as he lay there grimly watching us. \*As we drew nearer, I asked Mahina in a whisper if he felt equal to facing a charge from the lion if I should wound him. He answered simply that where I went, there would he go also ; and right well he kept his word.\*

I watched the lion carefully out of the corner of my eye as we approached. Every now and then he would disappear from view for a moment , and it was a fascinating sight to see how he slowly raised his massive head above the top of the grass again and gazed calmly and steadily at us as we neared him. Unfortunately I could not distinguish the outline of his body, hidden as it was in the grassy thicket. I therefore circled cautiously round in order to see if the grass was sufficiently thin at the back to make a shoulder shot possible ; but as we moved, the lion also twisted round and so always kept his head full on us. When I had gone half round him, I found that the grass was no thinner and that my chances of a shot had not improved. We were now within seventy yards of the lion, who appeared to take the greater interest in us the closer we approached. He had lost the sleepy look with which he had at first regarded us, and was now fully on the alert ; but still he did not give me the impression that he meant to charge, and no doubt if we had not annoyed him, he would have allowed us to

depart in peace. I, however, was bent on war, in spite of the risk, which one must always run by attacking a lion at such close quarters on an open plain as flat as the palm of the hand ; so in a standing position I took careful aim at his head, and fired The distance was, as I have said, a bare seventy yards ; yet I must confess to a disgraceful miss \*More astonishing still, the beast made not the slightest movement—did not even blink an eye, so far as I could see—but continued his steadfast, questioning gaze \* Again I took aim, this time for a spot below the tip of his nose, and again I fired—with more success, the lion turning a complete somersault over his tail. I thought he was done for, but he instantly sprang to his feet again, and to my horror and astonishment was joined by a lioness whose presence we had never even thought of or suspected.

## EXERCISES.

1 Practise usages in . My attempt *proved* a failure I *tried* my *luck* at shooting He kept his word I was *bent on* seeing my father

2 " He took the greater interest the closer we approached " Revise this use of " the the "

3 Give exact vernacular equivalents for to try one's luck, we went *straight out*, but *made a round* on our return journey He disappeared from view. I watched him out of the corner of my eye, every now and then, oblivious of my presence

4 Put into direct speech passages A , and also rewrite the second passage (first part) in indirect speech without the ' ifs '

5 Learn passage B by heart Practise to take notice of, to do one's best, to follow advice.



6 Analyse passage C

7 Write complex sentences using the following expressions : bent on, I must confess, turn a somersault, done for, tired as he was, he gave me the impression, in spite of.

### LESSON XXIII

#### DEATH OF THE THIRD MAN EATER

WORSE was still to follow, for to our dismay both made a most determined charge on us, bounding along at a great pace and roaring angrily as they came. \*Poor A Mahina cried out, "Master, *two* lions are coming!" but I told him to stand stock-still and for his life not to make the slightest movement \* In the twinkling of an eye the two beasts had covered about forty yards of the distance towards us. As they did not show the least sign of *stopping*, I thought we had given the experiment of remaining absolutely motionless a fair trial, and was just about to raise the rifle to my shoulder as a last resort, when suddenly the wounded lion stopped, staggered, and fell to the ground. The lioness took a couple of bounds nearer to us, and then to my great relief turned to look round for her mate, who had by this\*time managed to get to his feet again. There they both stood, growling viciously and lashing their tails, for what appeared to me to be an endless time. The lioness then made up her mind to go back to the lion, and they both stood broadside on, with their

heads close together and turned towards us, snarling in a most aggressive manner. Had either of us moved hand or foot just then, it would I am convinced, have at once brought on another and probably a fatal charge.

As the two great brutes stood in this position looking at us, I had, of course, a grand opportunity of shooting both, but I confess I did not feel equal to it at the moment. I could only devoutly hope that they would not renew their attack, and was only too thankful to let them depart in peace if they would, without any further hostility on my part. Just at this point the lion seemed to grow suddenly very weak. He staggered *some* ten yards back towards his lair, and then fell to the ground ; the lioness followed, and lay down beside him—both still watching us, and growling savagely. After a few seconds the lion struggled to his feet again and retreated a little further, the lioness accompanying him until he fell once more. A third time the same thing took place, and at last I began to breathe more freely, as they had now reached the thicket out of which they had originally come. Accordingly I took a shot at the lioness as she lay beside her mate, partly concealed in the long grass. I do not think I hit her, but *anyhow* she at once made off and bounded away at a great rate.

I sent a few bullets after her to speed her on her way, and then cautiously approached the wounded lion. He was stretched out at full length on his side,

with his back towards me, but I could see by the *heaving* of his flanks that he was not yet dead, so I put a bullet through his spine. He never moved after this ; but for safety's sake, I made no attempt to go up to him for a few minutes, and then only after Mahina had thrown a few stones at his body just to make sure that he was really dead.

We both felt very pleased with ourselves as we stood over him and looked at his fine head, great paws, and long, clean, sharp teeth. He was a young but full-grown lion in fine condition, and measured nine *feet* eight and a half inches from tip of nose to tip of tail. My last shot had entered the spine close to the shoulder, and had lodged in the body ; the first shot was a miss as I have already said ; but the second had caught him on the forehead, *right* between the eyes. The bullet, however, instead of entering the brain, had been turned downwards by a bone, through which it crashed, finally lodging in the root of the tongue, the lead showing on both sides. I cut out the tongue and hung it up to dry, intending to keep it as a trophy ; but unfortunately a vulture swooped down when my back was turned, and carried it off.

#### EXERCISES.

1. Practise usages in : I began to breathe more freely. I took a shot at the lion. We went out into the road *to speed* our guest *on his way*.

2. 'Revive,' what is the meaning of the prefix 're' ? Give six other verbs with the same prefix used in the same meaning.

- 3 Collect and practise the usages of ' only ' in this passage.
- 4 Parse words in italics in this lesson.
- 5 Learn passage A by heart
- 6 Give exact vernacular equivalents for ' stand stock-still, in the twinkling of an eye, we gave the experiment a fair trial, as a last resort, to my relief the lioness turned round, they stood broadside on
7. Describe the head of a lion or lioness

## LESSON XXIV

### SKINNING THE LION

FROM the time I knocked the lion over until he first staggered and fell not more than a minute could have elapsed—quite long enough, however, to have enabled him to cover the distance and to have seized one or  
A other of us \*Unquestionably we owed our lives to the fact that we both remained absolutely motionless ; and I cannot speak too highly of Mahina for the splendid way in which he stood the charge.\* Had he acted as did another gun-boy I know of, the affair might not have had so happy an ending. This gun-boy went out with his master in this very neighbourhood and not long after our adventure. They came across a lion just as we did, and wounded it. It charged down on them, but instead of remaining absolutely still, the terrified gun-boy fled, with the result that the lion came furiously on, and his poor master met with a terrible death.

While Mahina was scouring the neighbourhood in search of some natives to carry the skin back to camp, I took a good look round the place and found the half-eaten body of a zebra, which I noticed had been killed out in the open and then dragged into the long grass. The tracks told me, also, that all the work had been done by the lion, and this set me thinking of the lioness. I accordingly swept the plain with my glasses in the direction in which she had bounded off, and after some searching I discovered her about a mileaway, apparently lying down in the midst of a herd of deer who continued to graze without taking any notice of her. I felt much inclined to follow her up, but I was afraid that if I did so the vultures that were already hovering around would settle on my lion and spoil the skin, for the destruction of which these ravenous birds are capable, even in the space of only a few minutes, is almost beyond belief. I accordingly returned to the dead beast and sat down astride of him.

I next commenced to skin my trophy, and found it a very tough job to perform by myself. He proved to be a very fat beast, so I knew that Mahina would make a few honest and well-earned rupees out of him, for Indians will give almost anything for lion fat, believing that it is an infallible cure for rheumatism and various other diseases. When at length the skinning process was completed, I waited impatiently for the return of Mahina, who had by this time been gone much longer than I expected. It is rather trying to the

nerves—I am speaking for myself—to remain absolutely alone for hours on a vast open plain beside the carcase of a dead lion, with vultures incessantly wheeling about above one, and with nothing to be seen or heard for miles around except wild animals. It was a great relief, therefore, when after a long wait I saw Mahina approaching with half-a-dozen almost naked natives behind him. \*It turned out that he had lost his way back to me, so that it was lucky he found me at all.\* We lost no time in getting back to camp, arriving there just at sundown, when my first business was to rub wood ashes into the skin and then stretch it on a portable frame which I had made a few days previously. The camp fire was a big one that night, and Mahina gave a vivid description to the eager circle of listeners of the way in which we slew the lion.

### EXERCISES

1. Practise usages in I *owe* my life to your help I cannot stand such cold His words set me thinking Take a good look round. In the space of ten minutes.

2. Give synonyms in the text for : passed, a difficult task, certain, corpse, without ceasing, able to be carried

3. Form words of the same derivation as : complete, patient, cease, fury, continue.

4. Learn passages A and B by heart Practise 'it turns out,' 'he turns out to be' Compare passage A with its vernacular equivalent

5. 'Lion-fat'; what part of speech is lion in this sense? Make up six sentences in which nouns are used as adjectives.

6. Write a description of the lion-hunt as given by Mahina

to his comrades, including the following words and expressions : stock-still, shaggy, edge (v ), charge, take aim, turned somersault, bound, stagger, growl, spine, skin.

## LESSON XXV

### AN EXCITING STALK

ONE day as I felt rather tired after my morning's work, I decided to use my pony on my hunting expedition, although as a rule I went on foot. Mahina and half-a-dozen natives to beat the belt of trees were to accompany me, and after a hasty lunch off we started up the left bank of the river. I walked for some distance at first, partly because the ground was very stony and partly because I thought a lion might suddenly bound out of some likely patches in front of the beaters ; but after having gone about six miles in this way without adventure of any kind, I decided to mount again. At this time the beaters were in line about a hundred yards behind me, shouting with all their might as they advanced through the undergrowth, while I rode well to the flank so as to be ready for any emergency. Just as the men got up to a rather thicker piece of jungle than usual, I fancied I saw a movement among the bushes and pulled up suddenly to watch the spot, but did not dismount. The next moment out bounded a lioness, who raced straight across the open strip into the next patch of jungle, quickly followed by another.

Throwing myself off my pony, I seized my rifle to get a shot at the second lioness as she galloped past, and was just about to pull the trigger, when to my utter amazement out sprang a huge blackmaned lion, making all haste after his mates. Before he could reach the further thicket, however, I fired, and had the satisfaction of hearing the deep growl that tells of a serious hit.

The beaters and I now advanced with great care, and keeping a sharp look-out for the wounded animal as we crept from tree to tree. Fully a quarter of an hour must have elapsed in this slow yet exciting search, before one of the men, some fifty or sixty yards to my left, and a little ahead of the line, called out that he could see the lion awaiting our approach, with his head just visible in a large bed of rushes only a short distance in front of where I then was. Almost at the same moment I found blood marks left by the wounded animal, leading apparently to a kind of gap in the bank of the river, which had evidently been worn down by some animal going to and fro to drink. I accordingly made for this with the greatest caution, ordering all the men, except Mahina, to remain behind ; and as noiselessly as possible I slipped from bush to bush in my endeavour to obtain a peep over the bank. I saw that it was no use to attempt to climb a tree, as the overspreading foliage would have prevented me from obtaining any view ahead , so I continued my slow advance with a fast-beating heart, not knowing where the huge brute was and expecting every moment



that he would charge out at me over the bank from his reedy refuge. \*Embodied to a certain extent, **A** however, by the fact that up till then I had heard no movement on the part of my enemy, I crept steadily forward, and at last, from the shelter of a friendly tree, behind the trunk of which I hid myself, I was able to look over the bank.\* And there, not twenty yards from me, crouched the lion—luckily watching, not me, but the native who had first seen him and who had directed me to where he was. I raised my rifle very cautiously, without making the slightest sound, and steadying the barrel against the trunk of the tree and standing on tip-toe in order to get a better view, I fired straight at the side of his head. \*It was as if he had suddenly **B** been hit with a sledge-hammer, for he fell over instantly and lay like a log \*

\*On my calling out that the lion was done for, the **C** beaters came running up shouting with joy, and although I warned them to be careful, as the two lionesses were probably still close at hand, they did not seem to care in the slightest, and in a twinkling had the dead lion lifted from the reeds on to the dry bank.\* Before I allowed anything further to be done, however, I had the patch of rushes thoroughly beaten out; but as no traces of the lionesses could be found, we commenced to skin my fine trophy. When this was about half done, I decided to let Mahina finish the operation, while I went on ahead to try my luck either with more lions or with any other game that might come my way.

I followed up the river almost to its source, but no more lions crossed my path.

As it was now growing late, I made all haste back to where I had left Mahina skinning the lion, but to my astonishment he was nowhere to be seen. I fired several shots and shouted myself hoarse, all without response ; and the only conclusion I could come to was that he had returned to the camp at the temporary bridge. I accordingly pushed on, reaching home long after dark ; and there I found Mahina safe and sound, with the lion's skin already laid out to dry, so that I could not find it in my heart to give him the severe scolding he deserved for having returned without me. Next morning I packed up my trophies and returned to my work at railhead.

### EXERCISES

1. Practise usages in . My knife was nowhere to be seen. *As a rule* I leave my house about 9 o'clock I *pulled up* my horse and dismounted With all his might. To and fro. I stood on tip-toe I made straight for the village. It was as if he had been blinded—so carefully did he grope his way

2. Give synonyms in the text for . rear, a sudden necessity, surprise, went forward, attempt, leaves, answer

3. Translate passage A into the vernacular ; also ' to shout oneself hoarse '

4. Learn passage B by heart, and contrast the vernacular equivalents.

5. Write sentences containing the following words and expressions . just about to . . when, making all haste, ahead of, evidently, prevent

6. Analyse sentence C

## LESSON XXVI

## DR BROCK AND I GO OUT AFTER LIONS

At length the railhead reached the river, where, as there was a great deal of miscellaneous work to be done, our headquarters remained for some little time. One day not long after we had settled down in our new camp, I was joined quite unexpectedly by my friend Dr. Brock, who had shared the exciting adventure with me at Tsavo the night we were attacked in the goods-wagon by one of the man-eaters. Now Brock had so far not been fortunate enough to shoot a lion, and was consequently most anxious to do so. Shortly after his arrival, accordingly, he suggested that we should go for a *shooting* expedition next day, and that I should show him a likely spot for a lion. Of course I said I should be delighted—I was always ready for a hunt when it was possible for me to get away, and just at that time I could manage a day off quite easily. So we made the usual preparations for a *day's* absence from camp—filled our water-bottles with tea, put a loaf of bread and a tin of fish in our bag, looked carefully to our rifles and ammunition, and warned the “boys” who were to accompany us as beaters to be ready before dawn. I decided to make a very early start, as I knew that the most likely place for lions lay some distance away, and I wanted to get there if possible by daybreak. We should thus have

a better chance of catching one of the lords of the plain as he returned from his nightly rambles to the kindly shelter of the tall grass and rushes which fringed the banks of the river. We therefore retired to rest early, and \*just as I was dozing off to sleep, one of my Indian servants, Roshan Khan, put his head through the slit at my tent door\* and asked leave to accompany the "Salubs" in the morning so that he might see what hunting was like. This request I sleepily granted, thinking that it could make little difference whether he came with us or stayed *behind* in camp. \*As things turned out, however, it made all the difference in the world, for if he had not accompanied us, my hunt would in all probability have ended disastrously next day.\* He was a very dark-coloured young Pathan about twenty years of age, lithe and active, and honest and pleasant-looking. He had been my servant for some time and was much attached to me, besides having a blind belief in my skill as a hunter; probably, indeed, this was the reason why he stuck so close to me throughout the hunt.

We breakfasted by *candle* light and managed to get several miles on our way towards the source of the river before dawn. As soon as it was thoroughly daylight, we separated a little from each other, Dr. Brock, as the guest, *being placed* in the most likely position for a shot, while Roshan Khan followed close behind me with the day's provisions. In this order we trudged steadily forward for a couple of miles without coming

across anything, though we advanced through many patches of rushes and long grass likely to conceal our expected game. \*It was most interesting and exciting work all the same, as we never knew *but* that a lion might the next *moment* rump up at our *very* feet.\* We B had just beaten through a most hopeful-looking thicket without success and had come out *on* to a beautiful open grassy glade which stretched away for some distance ahead of us, when I noticed a big herd of antelope grazing quietly some distance to our right. I knew that Brock also wanted an antelope, so I whistled softly, and pointed them out to him. He came across at once and started off towards the herd, while I sat down and waited, expecting every moment to hear the sound of his rifle.

## EXERCISES

1 Practise usages in I have not yet *come across* the lost key. He *pointed out* to us the shortest way to the town. It *makes no difference* to me whether you stay or leave.

2 Give antonyms in the text for of the same kind, stiff, improbable, dull.

3 Give exact vernacular equivalent for passages B, and learn the first passage by heart. Frame other conditional sentences of the same construction as that in this passage.

4 Form words from the same derivation as provision, consequently, exciting, delighted, ready, decide.

5 Parse words in italics in this lesson. Rewrite passage A, "just as tent door," as a complex sentence, with the principal and subordinate clauses exchanged.

6. Make up the conversation in which Roshan Khan asked leave to join the shooting party, introducing three questions and answers.

7. Compare vernacular constructions in: We filled our water-bottles with tea. We warned the boys to be ready before dawn. Just as I was dozing off to sleep. One of my Indian servants. He was much attached to me.

## LESSON XXVII

### AN AFRICAN GUIDE LEADS THE WAY

SOME time passed without a shot, however, and I was just about to follow him up and find out how things were going when Roshan Khan suddenly exclaimed excitedly —“ Look, Sahib the savages are coming ! ” I was not in the least alarmed at this somewhat startling announcement, as the Indians called all the natives of the interior of Africa savages ; and on looking round I saw five tall, slim natives approaching in single file, each carrying a six-foot spear in his right hand. On coming nearer, the leader of the party eagerly asked,  
A \* “ What does the Great Master desire ? ”

“ Lions,” said I.

“ Come,” he replied, “ I will show you many.”

This filled me with interest at once. “ How far away are they ? ” I asked.

“ A little distance,” came the usual reply.\*

I immediately had a good look round for Brock, but could see no sign of him, so, in case the “ many ” lions should get away in the meantime, I told the man to lead the way, and off we started.

As usual, the little distance proved a good long way—over two miles in this case. \*Indeed, I began **B** to get impatient at the long tramp, and called out to the guide to know where his lions were ; but he gave no answer and continued to walk steadily on, casting keen glances ahead.\* After a little I again asked, “Where are the lions ? ” This time he extended his spear in an excited manner, and pointing to a clump of trees just ahead, exclaimed : “Look, Master ; there are the lions.” I looked, and at once caught sight of a lioness trotting off behind the bushes. I also saw some suspicious-looking thing at the foot of one of the big trees, but came to the conclusion that it was only a growth of some kind projecting from the trunk. \*I **C** was soon to be undeceived, however, for as I started to run towards the trees in order to cut off the fast disappearing lioness from a bunch of rushes for which she was making, a low growl made me look closer at the object which had first aroused my suspicions.\* To my surprise and delight I saw that it was the head of a huge black-maned lion peering out from behind the trunk of the tree, which completely hid his body. I pulled up short and stared at him. Although he was not seventy yards away from me, yet owing to the nature of the background it was very difficult to make him out, especially as he kept his head perfectly still, **D** gazing steadily at me. \*It was only when the great mouth opened in an angry snarl that I could see plainly what he really was.\* For a few seconds we stood thus

and looked at each other ; then he growled again and made off after the lioness. As I could not get a fair shot at him from where I stood, I ran with all my might for another spot from which I might have a better chance of hitting him as he passed.

### EXERCISES

1. Practise usages in. How are things going with you ? Take a good look round the room. I told him to lead the way. I ran to the cross roads to *cut him off*.

2. Turn sentence B into a complex sentence.

3. Rewrite passage A in indirect speech.

4. Translate and compare English and vernacular in. This book is full of interest. I was filled with interest by your letter. A suspicious man. A suspicious-looking thing. His strange behaviour aroused my suspicions. I pulled up short and stared at him.

5. Learn passage C by heart, form other sentences commencing "I was soon" followed by an infinitive.

6. Explain the reason for the inverted commas occurring in the text between the passages A and B.

7. Analyse passage D and give its vernacular equivalent.

8. Write sentences using the following words and expressions. owing to, to make out, background, it was only when, meantime.

### LESSON XXVIII

#### SIX LIONS AT ONCE !

Now by this time I had almost got beyond surprise where lions were concerned ; yet I must admit that I was thoroughly startled and brought to a full stop in



the middle of my race by seeing no less than four more lionesses jump up from the thicket which the lion had just left. In the twinkling of an eye three of them had disappeared after their lord in long, low bounds, but the fourth stood broadside on, looking, not at me, but at my followers, who by this time were grouped together and talking and gesticulating excitedly. \*This A gave me a splendid chance for a shoulder shot at about fifty yards' distance, so I knelt down at once and fired after taking careful aim \* The lioness disappeared from sight instantly, and on looking over the top of the grass I saw that my shot had told, as she was on her back, clawing the air and growling viciously. As she looked to me to be done for, I shouted to some of the men to remain behind and watch her, while I set off once more at a run to try to catch up the lion. I feared that the delay with the lioness might have lost him to me altogether, but to my relief I soon caught sight of him again. He had not made off very quickly, and had probably stopped several times to see what I was up to ; indeed, the men, who could see him all the time, afterwards told me that when he heard the growl of rage from the lioness after she was shot, he made quite a long halt, apparently deliberating whether he should return to her rescue. Evidently, however, he had decided that discretion was the better part of valour. Fortunately he was travelling leisurely, and I was delighted to find that I was gaining on him fast , but I had still to run about two hundred yards at my

## LESSON XXIX

## A WOUNDED LION'S FURY

By this time my followers numbered about thirty men, as when one is hunting in these plains natives seem to spring from nowhere in the most mysterious manner, and attach themselves to one in the hope of obtaining some portion of the *kill*. By signal I ordered them to advance in line on the thicket in which the lioness had just taken refuge, while I took up my position on one side, so as to obtain a good shot when she sprang out. The line of natives shouting their *native* cries and striking their spears together soon disturbed her, and out she sprang into the *open*, making for a clump of rushes close to the river. Unfortunately she broke out at the most unfavourable spot from my point of view, as some of the natives being between me and her prevented my *firing*, and I had consequently to wait until she got almost to the edge of the rushes. Whether or not I hit her then I cannot say; at any rate, she made good her escape into the reeds, where I decided to leave her until Brock should arrive.

I now retraced my steps towards the spot where I had shot the lion, expecting, of course, to find the man I had told to watch him still on guard. To my intense vexation, however, I found that my sentry had deserted his post and had joined the other men of the party, having become frightened when left by himself. The

result of his disobedience was that now I could not tell where lay the dead lion –or, *rather*, the lion which I believed to be dead ; but I had no intention of losing so fine a trophy, so I began a systematic search, dividing the jungle into strips, and thus going over the whole place thoroughly. The task of finding him, however, was not so easy as might be thought , the chase after the lioness had taken us some distance *from* where I had shot him, and as there were numbers of trees *about* similar to that under which he fell, it was really a very difficult matter to hit upon the right place. \*At last one of the men sang out joyfully that he had **A** found the lion, at the same time running away from the spot as hard as ever he could \* A number of those nearest to him, both Indians and natives, had more courage or curiosity, and went up to have a look at the beast. I shouted to them as I hurried along to be careful and not to go too near, in case by any chance he might not be dead ; but they paid little heed to the warning, and by the time I got up, some half-dozen of them were gathered in a group at the lion's tail, gesticulating wildly and chattering each in his own language, and *all* very pleased and excited. On getting near I asked if the lion was dead, and was told that he was nearly so, but that he still breathed. \*He was **B** lying at full length on his side, and when I saw him at close quarters I was more delighted than I can tell, for he was indeed a very fine specimen \* For a moment or two I stood with the group of natives, admiring him.

He still breathed regularly, but as he lay absolutely still with all the men chattering within a yard of him, I assumed that he was on the point of death and unable to rise. Possessed with this belief, I very foolishly allowed my curiosity to overcome my caution, and stepped round to have a look at his head. The moment I came into his view, however, he suddenly became possessed of a devilish ferocity. With a great roar he sprang to his feet, as if he were quite unhurt; his eyes blazed with fury, and his lips were drawn well back, exposing his teeth in a way I hope never to see again. \*When this perilous situation so unexpectedly developed itself, I was not more than three paces away from him.\*

### EXERCISES

1 Practise usages in: This house is most unsuitable *from my point of view* . . I found a dog *on guard* at the door. He will come to-morrow—*or rather* I hope he will They went up *to have a look* at him

2 Form nouns of the same derivation as: systematic, dividing, difficult, similar, curious, gesticulate, perilous, expect.

3. Learn passage A by heart, and turn it into a compound sentence, changing where possible indirect into direct speech.

4. Parse words in italics in this lesson

5. Use in sentences attach to, in the hope of, to advance on, take refuge, strike together, whether or not, at any rate, divide into.

6. Translate passages B into the vernacular, and learn the first passage by heart

7. Write an imaginative account of what Dr Brock had been doing while Col. Patterson was hunting the lions.

## LESSON XXX

## ROSHAN KHAN'S HAIRBREADTH ESCAPE

THE instant the lion rose, all the men fled as if the Evil One himself were after them, and made for the nearest trees—with one exception, for as I took a step backwards, keeping my eye on the infuriated animal, I almost trod on Roshan Khan, who had still remained close behind me. Fortunately for me, I had approached the lion's head with my rifle ready, and as I stepped back I fired. The blow of the bullet threw him back on his haunches just as he was in the act of springing, but in an instant he was up again and coming for me so quickly that I had not even time to raise my rifle to my shoulder, but fired straight at him from my hip delaying him for a second or so as before. He was up again like lightning and again close to my rifle; and this time I thought that nothing on earth could save me, as I was almost within his clutches. Help came from an unexpected and unconscious quarter, for just at this critical moment Roshan Khan seemed all at once to realise the danger of the situation, and suddenly fled for his life, screaming and shrieking with all his might. \*Beyond all question this movement saved me, A for the sight of something darting away from him diverted the lion's attention from me, and following his natural instinct, he gave chase instead to the yelling fugitive.\*

Roshan Khan having thus unintentionally rescued me from my perilous position, it now became my turn to do all I could to save him, if this were possible. In far less time than it takes to tell the story, I had swung round after the pursuing lion, levelled my rifle and fired ; but whether because of the speed at which he was going, or because of my over-anxiety to save my servant, I missed him completely, and saw the bullet raise the dust at the heels of a flying native. Like lightning I loaded again, but now the lion was within a spring of his prey, and it seemed hopeless to expect to save poor Roshan Khan from his clutches. Just at this moment, however, the terrified youth caught sight of the brute over his left shoulder, and made a quick swerve to the right. As the lion turned to follow him, he came broadside on to me, and just as he had Roshan Khan within striking distance and was about to seize him, he dropped in the middle of what would otherwise undoubtedly have been the fatal spring—bowled over with a broken shoulder. This gave me time to run up and give him a final shot, and with a deep roar he fell back full length on the grass, stone-dead.

I then looked round to see if Roshan Khan was all right, as I was not sure whether the lion had succeeded in mauling him or not. But the sight that met my eyes sent me into a roar of laughter ; indeed, it was so utterly absurd that I threw myself down on the grass and 'rolled over and over, convulsed with

uncontrollable mirth. For there was Roshan Khan, halfway up a thorn tree, earnestly bent on getting to the very topmost branch as quickly as ever he could climb ; not a moment, indeed, was he able to spare to cast a glance at what was happening beneath. His puggaree had been torn off by one thorn, and waved gracefully in the breeze ; a fancy waistcoat adorned another spiky branch, and his long white cotton dress was torn to ribbons in his mad endeavour to put as great a distance as possible between himself and the dead lion. As soon as I could stop laughing, I called out to him to come down, but quite in vain. \*There was no stopping him, indeed, until he had reached the very top of the tree ; and even then he could scarcely be induced to come down again. Poor fellow, he had been thoroughly terrified, and little wonder.\*

### EXERCISES

1 Practise usages in : I am *bent on* getting this sum right. I worked rapidly *keeping an eye on* the clock for fear I should be late He was *in the act of* writing to me when I came in. He fled *for his life* *Beyond all question* this boy's work is the best He was *convulsed with* laughter

2 Revise names of the parts of the body

3 Translate passage A into the vernacular, comparing constructions Practise : to attract attention to, to divert attention from

4 Give antonyms for : intentional, perilous, danger, complete, hopeful, lengthways on

5. Explain and translate 'over-anxiety' Form two nouns, two adjectives and two verbs with the prefix 'over' and use them in sentences.

6 Learn passage B by heart Practise impersonal usage :  
There was no telling what . . . Supply the omissions in " He  
was utterly confused, and little or no wonder "

7. Let Roshan Khan write to his family in India describing  
his adventure.

## LESSON XXXI

### THE MIMICS

My followers now began to emerge from the shelter of the various trees and bushes where they had concealed themselves after their wild flight from the lion, and crowded round his dead body in the highest spirits. The natives, especially, seemed delighted at the way in which he had been defeated, and to my surprise and amusement proved themselves excellent mimics, some three or four of them beginning at once to act the whole adventure. One played the part of the lion and jumped growling at a comrade, who immediately ran backwards just as I had done, shouting " Ta, Ta, Ta " and cracking his fingers to represent the rifle-shots.

A \*Finally the whole audience shouted with delight when another bolted as fast as he could to Roshan Khan's tree with the mock lion roaring after him.\* At the end of these proceedings up came Brock, who had been attracted to the place by the sound of the firing. He was much astonished to see my fine dead lion lying stretched out, and his first remark was, " You *are* a lucky beggar ! " Afterwards, when he heard the full



story of the adventure, he rightly considered me even more lucky than he had first thought.

Our next business was to go back to the lioness which I had first shot and left for dead. Like her mate, however, she was still very much alive when we reached her, so I stalked carefully up to a neighbouring tree, from whose shelter I gave her the finishing shot. We then left Mahina and the other men to skin the two beasts, and went on to the rushes where the second lioness had taken cover. Here all our efforts to turn her out failed, so we reluctantly abandoned the chase and were fated to see no more lions that day.

After this we returned to the scene of my morning's adventure, where we found that the faithful Mahina had finished skinning the two lions. We accordingly made our way back to camp with our trophies, all of us, with perhaps the exception of Roshan Khan, well satisfied with the day's outing. \*Whenever afterwards I wanted to chaff this boy, I had only to ask whether he would like to come and see some more *shikar*.\* He would then look very solemn, shake his head emphatically and assure me "Never again, sir."

#### EXERCISES.

1 Practise usages in : They were in high spirits. Left *for* dead. He proved himself to be an excellent mathematician. He turned out to be an excellent mathematician. All are gone *with the exception of* Ram Chand. He *blaved* a difficult *part* well.

2. Give synonyms in the text for : to come out, imitator, companion, attempts, unwillingly, to give up, onlookers, to take shelter.

3 Analyse passage A.

4. Translate passage B into the vernacular. Practise usage in ' You *have only* to ask and the ring is yours.

5 Write sentences using : attract, fated, assure, various, take refuge

6. Describe any mimicry you have seen.

## LESSON XXXII

### MORE NEWS OF LIONS

WHEN the river had been bridged, the line was pushed forward as rapidly as possible, and from dawn to dark we all exerted ourselves to the very utmost. One day the weather was exceptionally hot, and I had been out in the broiling sun ever since daylight superintending the construction of banks and cuttings and the erection of temporary bridges. On returning to my hut, therefore, at about three o'clock in the afternoon, I threw myself into an easy chair, too tired for anything beyond a long cool drink. Here I rested for an hour or so, amused by the bustle at the small wayside station we had just built, and idly watching our tiny construction engine forging its way, with a great deal of clanking and puffing, up a steep slope just across the river. It was touch-and-go whether it would manage to get its heavy load of rails and sleepers to

the top of the incline or not, and I became so interested in the contest between steam and friction and gravity, that I did not notice that a visitor had approached and was standing quietly beside me.

On hearing the usual salutation, however, I turned round and saw a lean and withered native clothed in a ragged piece of wildebeeste hide which was merely slipped under the left arm and looped up in a knot over the right shoulder. He stood for a moment with the right hand held out on a level with his shoulder, the fingers extended and the palm turned towards me—all indicating that he came on a friendly visit. I returned his salutation, and asked him what he wanted. \*Before answering, he dropped down on his A heels, his old bones cracking as he did so. "I want to lead the Great Master to two lions," he said; "they have just killed a zebra and are now devouring it." On hearing this I straightway forgot that I had already done a hard day's work in the full blaze of an equatorial sun; I forgot that I was tired and hungry; in fact, I forgot everything that was not directly connected with the excitement of lion-hunting. Even the old savage at my feet grinned when he saw how keen I was about it. I plied him with questions—\*were they both lions B or lionesses? had they manes? how far away were they?\* and so on. Naturally, to the last question he was bound to answer "a little distance." Of course they were not far away; nothing ever is to a native of East Africa. However, the result was that in a very

few minutes I had a mule saddled, and with the old man as guide, started off accompanied by my faithful Mahina and another coolie to help bring home the skin if I should prove successful. \*I also left word for my friend Spooner, the District Engineer, who happened to be absent from camp just at the moment, that I had gone after two lions, but hoped to be back by nightfall.\*

We travelled at a good pace, and within an hour had covered fully six miles; still there was no sign of lions. On the way we were joined by some other natives, even more scantily attired than our guide, and soon a dispute arose between them and the old man, who refused to allow them to accompany us, as he was afraid that they would seize all the zebra-meat that the lions had not already eaten. However, I told him not to bother, but to hurry up and show me the lions, and that I would look after him all right. Eventually, on getting to the top of a long low hill, our guide extended a long skinny finger and said proudly, "See, Master." I looked in the direction in which he pointed, and sure enough, about six hundred yards off were a lion and a lioness busily engaged on the carcass of a zebra. \*On using my field-glasses I was amused to observe a jackal in attendance on the pair.\* \*Every now and then he would come too close to the zebra, when the lion would make a short rush at him and scare him away.\* The little jackal looked most ridiculous, scampering off before the huge beast

with his tail well down ; but no sooner did the lion stop and return to his meal than he crept nearer again. The natives say, by the way, that a lion will eat every kind of animal—including even other lions—except a jackal or a hyæna. I was also interested to notice the way in which the lion got at the flesh of the zebra ; he took a short run at the body, and putting his claws well into the skin in this manner tore off great strips of the hide.

### EXERCISES

1 Practise usages in We *did our very utmost* to complete the work It will be a week *or so* before I come It was *touch-and-go* whether his life could be saved I plied him with questions He is *bound to* come to-morrow.

2 Give antonyms for . temporary, contract (v ), patient, activity, sloping, order ; and synonyms for . superintend, slope, contest, greeting

3 Learn sentence A by heart, practising the grammatical construction of the participle in it

4 Practise usage in : I am keen on my work Turn passage B into (a) direct speech, and (b) into indirect speech, beginning " I asked him whether "

5 In passage C what is the grammatical object of ' left word ' ? Practise : to leave word for . . .

6. Turn sentence D into a compound sentence

7 Compare passage E with its vernacular equivalent, and practise thus and other usages of ' would '

8 Give an imaginary description of the old native, using the following words : lean, height, hair, skin, bones, *skinny*, dressed in, nothing but, knotted, shoulder, calves, support, weight, eyes, toothless, voice, expression, general appearance.

9 Suppose Col Patterson left a note for the District Engineer. Write that note.

## LESSON XXXIII

## DEATH OF A LIONESS

WHILE I was thus studying the picture my followers became impatient at my inactivity, and coming up to the top of the rise, showed themselves on the sky-line.

A \*The lions saw them at once, turning round and standing erect to stare at them.\* There was no cover whatever to be seen, nor any chance of taking advantage of the rolling ground, for it did not slope in the required direction ; so I started to walk in the *open* in a sidelong direction towards the formidable-looking pair. They allowed me to come a hundred yards or so nearer them, and then the lioness bolted, the lion following her at a more leisurely trot. As soon as they left the body of the zebra, my African *following* made a rush for it, and began a fierce fight over the remains, so that I had to restore order and leave a coolie to see that our guide got the largest share, as he deserved. In the meantime the lion, hearing the noise of the squabble, halted on the crest of the hill to take a deliberate look at me, and then disappeared over the brow. I jumped on to my mule and galloped as hard as I could after him, and luckily found the *pair* still in sight when I reached the top of the rise. As soon as they saw me following them, the lioness took cover in some long grass that almost concealed her when she lay down, but the lion

continued to move steadily away. \*Accordingly I made **B** for a point which would bring me about two hundred yards to the right of the lioness, and which would leave a deep natural hollow between us, so as to give me a better chance, in the event of a charge, of bowling her over as she came up the rise towards me.\* I could plainly make out her light-coloured form in the grass, and took careful aim and fired. In an instant she was kicking on her back and tossing about, evidently hard hit ; in a few seconds more she lay perfectly still, and I saw that she was dead.

I now turned my attention to the lion, who meanwhile had disappeared over another rise. By this time Mahina and the other Indian, with three or four of the disappointed natives, had come up, so we started off in a body in pursuit of him. \*I felt sure that he was **C** lurking somewhere in the grass not far off, and I knew that I could depend upon the native eye to find him if he showed so much as the tip of his ear.\* Nor was I disappointed, for we had scarcely topped the next rise when one of the natives sighted the dark brown head of the brute as he raised it for an instant above the grass in order to watch us. We pretended not to have seen him, however, and advanced to within two hundred yards or so, when, as he seemed to be getting uneasy, I thought it best to risk a shot even at this range. I raised my rifle and fired, but the bullet fell short. The lion never moved. Raising it again I rested the rifle on Mahina's back for the next shot, and

again missed ; fortunately, however, the lion still remained quiet.

### EXERCISES.

1. Practise usages in : *Take advantage of the opportunity.*  
I know I can depend on you to help me    Please  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \textit{turn your} \\ \textit{pay} \end{array} \right.$   
*attention* to what I am saying. *In the event of rain* I shall shelter under a tree    He *pretended* not to know me
- 2 Turn the first half of passage A into the passive voice, making a complex sentence of the whole passage.
- 3 Give synonyms for : quarrel, deliberate, brow of a hill, luckily, plainly.
- 4 Translate passage B into the vernacular, noting any important contrasts between the English and vernacular usages
- 5 What parts of speech are the words in italics in this lesson, and what parts of speech are they most commonly ?
- 6 Find in this lesson a grammatical construction like that in passage A in the previous lesson
- 7 Practise the conditional construction illustrated in passage C, giving the vernacular equivalent in each case.
8. Let Mahina write home an account of the day's adventure.

## LESSON XXXIV

### WE RETURN TO CAMP

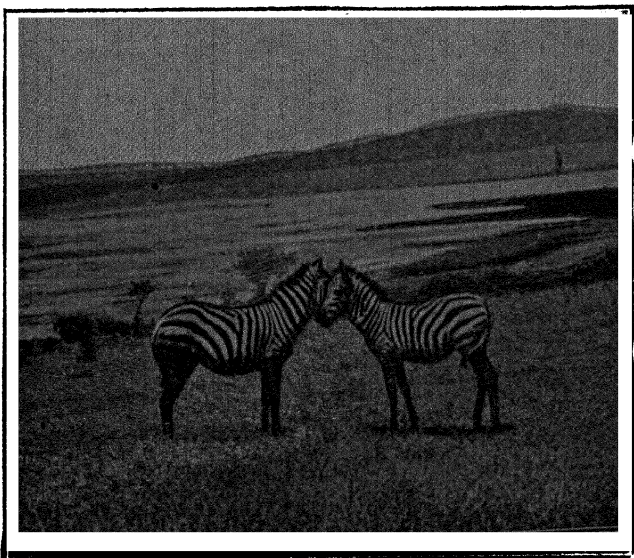
I THEN decided to put into practice the scheme I had thought out the day I sat astride the lion I had killed on the Kapiti Plain · so I told all my followers to move off to the right, taking the mule with them, and to make a half-circle round the animal, while I lay motionless



in the grass and waited. The plan succeeded admirably, for as the men moved round so did the lion, offering me at last a splendid shoulder shot. I took very careful, steady aim and fired, with the result that he rolled over and over, and then made one or two attempts to get up, but failed. I then ran up to within a few yards of him, and—helpless as he was with a bullet through both shoulders—he was still full of pluck, and twisted round so as to face me, giving vent all the time to savage growls. A final shot laid him out, however, and we at once proceeded to skin him. While we were busy doing this, one of the Africans suddenly drew my attention to the fact that we were actually being stalked at that very moment by two other lions, who eventually approached to within five hundred yards' distance and then lay down to watch us skinning their dead brother, their big shaggy heads rising every now and again above the grass to give us a prolonged stare. At that time I little knew what a stirring adventure was in store for me next day while in pursuit of these same brutes.

It was almost dark when the skinning process was finished, so without delay we started on our way back to camp, which was about seven miles off. \*The lioness A I thought I should leave to be skinned the next day ; but the men I sent out to do the job on the morrow were unable to find any trace of her, they probably missed the place where she lay, for I am sure that I killed her.\* It was a good two hours after night had fallen before

midable foe, while I, though admitting to the full the courage of the tiger, maintained from lively personal experience that the lion when once roused was unequalled for pluck and daring, and was in fact the most dangerous enemy one could meet with. He may at times slink off and not show fight ; but \*get him in C the mood, or wound him, and only his death or yours will end the fray\*—that, at least, was my experience of East African lions. \*I think that Spooner has now D come round to my opinion, his conversion taking place the next day in a very melancholy manner.\*



## EXERCISES.

1. Practise usages in : *Put* what you have learnt *into practice* I have *thought out* a way to defeat him You *little know* what is *in store* for you to-morrow I hope to do this job in half an hour We lost our bearings and missed his house, so came back without seeing him He gave vent to his feelings

2 Give synonyms in the text for ' plan, without moving, courage, at last, lengthy, seven miles away.

3. Analyse sentence A

4. Translate passage B into the vernacular

5 Learn passage D by heart Practise ' I have come round to your opinion, and I am converted to your opinion

6 Write complex sentences introducing the following words and expressions ' comparative, admit, maintain, show fight, escort, argument

7. Rewrite passage C in different forms to express a condition

8 Write out the conversation between Mr. Spooner and Col. Patterson on the lion and the tiger.

## LESSON XXXV

## SPOONER AND I GO HUNTING TOGETHER

LONG after I had retired to rest that night I lay awake listening to roar answering roar in every direction round our camp, and realised that we were indeed in the midst of a favourite haunt of the king of beasts. It is one thing to hear a lion in captivity, when one knows he is safe behind iron bars , but quite another

to listen to him when he is ramping around in the vicinity of one's fragile tent, which with a single blow he could tear to pieces. Still all this roaring was of good omen for the next day's sport.

According to our over-night arrangement, we were up betimes in the morning, but as there was a great deal of work to be done before we could get away, it was quite midday before we made ready to start. I ought to mention before going further that as a rule Spooner declined my company on shooting trips, as he was convinced that I should come to grief sooner or later if I persisted in going after lions with a "pop-gun," as he contemptuously called my light rifle. Indeed, this was rather a point of dispute between us, he being a firm believer (and rightly) in a heavy weapon for big and dangerous game, while I always did my best to defend the rifle which I was in the habit of using. On this occasion we effected a compromise for the day, I accepting the loan of his spare heavy rifle as a second gun in case I should get to close quarters. But my experience has been that it is always a very dangerous thing to rely on a borrowed gun or rifle, unless it works in precisely the same way as one's own; and certainly in this instance it almost proved disastrous.

Having thus seen to our rifles and ammunition and taken care also that some brandy was put in the tiffin basket in case of an accident, we set off early in the afternoon in Spooner's *tonga*, which is a two-wheeled

cart with a hood over it. The party consisted of Spooner and myself, Spooner's Indian *shikari* Bhoota, my own gun-boy Mahina, and two other Indians, one of whom, Imam Din, rode in the *tonga*, while the other led a spare horse called "Blazeaway." Now it may seem a strange plan to go lion-hunting in a *tonga*, but there is no better way of getting about country like the Athi Plains, where—so long as it is dry—there is little or nothing to obstruct wheeled traffic. Once started, we rattled over the smooth expanse at a good rate, and at last reached the spot where I had seen the two lions on the previous day—a slight hollow, covered with long grass; but there was now no trace of them to be discovered, so we moved further on and had another good beat round. After some little time the excitement began by our spying the black-tipped ears of a lioness projecting above the grass, and the next moment a very fine lion arose from beside her and gave us a full view of his grand head and mane. After staring fixedly at us in an inquiring sort of way as we slowly advanced upon them, they both turned and slowly trotted off, the lion stopping every now and again to gaze round in our direction. Very imposing and majestic he looked, too, as he thus turned his great shaggy head defiantly towards us, and Spooner had to admit that it was the finest sight he had ever seen. For a while we followed them on foot; but finding at length that they were getting away from us and would soon be lost to sight over a bit of rising

ground, \*we jumped quickly into the *tonga* and galloped A round the base of the hill so as to cut off their retreat, the excitement of the rough and bumpy ride being intensified a hundredfold by the probability of our driving straight into the pair on rounding the rise.\* When we reached the other side, however, they were nowhere to be seen, so we drove on as hard as we could to the top, whence we caught sight of them about four hundred yards away. As there seemed to be no hope of getting nearer we decided to open fire at this range, and at the third shot the lioness tumbled over. At first I thought I had done for her, as for a few minutes she lay on the ground kicking and struggling; but in the end, although evidently badly hit, she rose to her feet and followed the lion, who had escaped uninjured, into some long grass from which we could not hope to dislodge them.

### EXERCISES

1 Practise usages in · It is one thing to make a plan and quite another to carry it out. The boat came to grief in the storm. (a) to ask, (b) to grant, (c) to accept—a loan

2 Give synonyms for · vicinity, betimes, to mention, convinced, a *spare* horse, the previous, decline, dislodge

3 Revise · I am in the habit of, to rely on, to see to, to take care, in case of, consist of, on foot, catch sight of

4 Explain and translate : a good omen, a popgun, to effect a compromise

5. Turn sentence A into the vernacular from 'we jumped,' and practise the construction with the participle (passive) which occurs in it.

6. Form nouns of the same derivation as: captivate, arrange, convince, persist, obstruct, discover, project, probable, decide

7. Use in sentences: realise, as a rule, decline, sooner or later, persist in, so long as

8. Explain the use of brackets in this lesson and in Lesson I., and write sentences to illustrate their use

9. Describe carefully the picture showing the zebras on p. 111.

## LESSON XXXVI

### CHASED BY LIONS

As it was now late in the afternoon, and as there seemed no possibility of inducing the lions to leave the thicket in which they had concealed themselves, we turned back towards camp, intending to come out again the next day to track the wounded lioness. I was now riding "Blazeaway" and was trotting along in advance of the *tonga*, when suddenly I felt the horse trembling violently beneath me, and on looking over my left shoulder to discover the reason, I was startled to see two fine lions not more than a hundred yards away, evidently the pair which I had seen the day before and which we had really come in search of. They looked as if they meant to block our passage, for they came slowly towards me for about ten yards or so and then lay down, watching me steadily all the time. \*I called out to Spooner, "Here are the lions I

told you about," and he whipped up the ponies and in a moment or two was beside me with the *tonga*.\*

By this time I had seized my rifle and dismounted, so we at once commenced a cautious advance on the crouching lions, the arrangement being that Spooner was to take the *right-hand* one and I the other. We had got to within sixty yards' range without incident and were just about to sit down comfortably to shoot at them, when they suddenly surprised us by turning and *bolting* off. I managed, *however*, to put a bullet into mine just as he crested a bank, and he looked very grand as he reared up against the sky and clawed the air on feeling the lead. For a second or two he gave me the impression that he was about to charge; but luckily he changed his mind and followed his companion, who had so far escaped *scot free*. \*I immediately mounted "Blazeaway" and galloped off in hot pursuit, and after about half a mile of very stiff *going* got up with them once more.\* Finding now that they could not get away, they halted, turned round and then charged down upon me, the wounded lion leading. I had left my rifle behind, so all I could do was to turn and fly as fast as "Blazeaway" could go, praying inwardly the while that he would not put his foot into a 'hole. When the lions saw that they were unable to overtake me, they gave up the chase and lay down again, the wounded one being about two hundred yards in front of the other. At once I pulled up too, and then went back a little way, keeping a careful eye upon



them ; and I continued thus riding up and down at a respectful distance until Spooner came up with the rifles, when we renewed the attack.

As a first measure I thought it advisable to disable the unhurt lion if possible, and, still using the light rifle, I got him with the second shot at a range of about three hundred yards. He seemed badly hit, for he sprang into the air and apparently fell heavily. I then exchanged my light rifle for Spooner's heavy one, and we turned our attention to the nearer lion, who all this time had been lying perfectly still, watching our movements closely, and evidently just waiting to be down upon us the moment we came within charging distance. He was never given this opportunity, however, for we did not approach nearer than ninety yards, when Spooner sat down comfortably and knocked him over quite dead with one shot, the bullet entering the left shoulder obliquely and passing through the heart.

It was now dusk, and there was no time to be lost if we meant to get the second lion as well. We therefore resumed our cautious advance, moving to the right as we went, so as to get behind us what light there was remaining. The lion of course twisted round in the grass in such a way as always to keep facing us, and looked very ferocious, so that I was convinced that unless he were entirely disabled by the first shot he would be down on us like a whirlwind. All the same, I felt confident that, even in this event, one of us would succeed in stopping him before he could do any

damage ; but in this I was unfortunately to prove mistaken.

### EXERCISES

1 Practise usages in : This boy *gives the impression* of being always sleepy I have changed my mind. Though they deserved punishment they escaped *scot free* He never gave me an opportunity of speaking to him Have floods *done* much *damage* round your village ?

2 Give synonyms for · induce, passage, incident, so far, the while, dusk, ferocious, damage

3 Change passage A into indirect speech

4 Translate passage B into the vernacular, comparing construction

5 Write sentences using the following verbs as (a) transitive, (b) intransitive to lead, to turn, to watch, twist round.

6 Parse words in italics in this lesson

7 Compare vernacular constructions in · I was startled to see the lions They gave up the chase They looked as if they meant to block our passage We turned our attention to the nearer lion There was no time to be lost. In this I was unfortunately to prove mistaken.

8. Describe a tonga.

### LESSON XXXVII

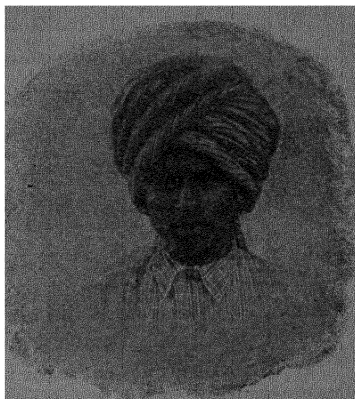
#### POOR BHOOTA

EVENTUALLY we managed to get within eighty yards of the enraged animal, I being about five yards to the left front of Spooner, who was followed by Bhoota at about the same distance to his right rear. By this time the lion was beside himself with fury, growling

savagely and raising quite a cloud of dust by lashing his tail against the ground. It was clearly high time that we did something, so asking Spooner to fire, I dropped on one knee and waited. Nor was I kept long in suspense, for the moment Spooner's shot rang out, up jumped the lion and charged down in a bee-line for me, coming in long, low bounds at great speed. I fired the right barrel at about fifty yards, but apparently missed; the left at about half that range, still without stopping effect. I knew then that there was no time to reload, so remained kneeling, expecting him to be on me the next moment. Suddenly, just as he was within a bound of me, he made a quick turn to my right. "Good heavens," I thought, "he is going for Spooner." I was wrong in this, however, for like a flash he passed Spooner also, and with a last tremendous bound seized Bhoota by the leg and rolled over and over with him for some yards in the impetus of the rush. Finally he stood over him and tried to seize him by the throat, which the brave fellow prevented by courageously stuffing his left arm right **A** into the great jaws \*Poor Bhoota! By moving at the critical moment, he had diverted the lion's attention from me and had drawn the whole fury of the charge on to himself.\*

All this, of course, happened in only a second or two. In the short instant that followed, I felt a cartridge thrust into my hand by Spooner's plucky servant, Imam Din, who had carried the spare rifle

all day and who had stuck to me gallantly throughout the charge ; and shoving it in, I rushed as quickly as I could to Bhoota's rescue. Meanwhile, Spooner had got there before me and when I came up actually had his left hand on the lion's flank, in a vain attempt to push him off Bhoota's prostrate body and so get at the heavy rifle which the poor fellow still stoutly clutched. The lion, however, was so busily engaged mauling Bhoota's arm that he paid not the slightest attention to Spooner's efforts. Unfortunately, as he was facing straight in my direction, I had to move up in full view of him, and the moment I reached his head, he



"SPOONER'S LUCKY SERVANT,  
IMAM DIN."

stopped chewing the arm, though still holding it in his mouth, and threw himself back on his haunches, preparing for a spring, at the same time curling back his lips and exposing his long teeth in a savage snarl. I knew then that I had not a moment to spare, so I threw the rifle up to my shoulder and pulled the trigger. Imagine my utter despair and horror when it did not go off ! " Misfire again," I thought, and my heart almost stopped beating. As I took a step backwards, I felt it was all over now, for he would never give

me time to extract the cartridge and load again. Still I took another step backwards, keeping my eyes fixed on the lion's, which were blazing with rage ; and in the middle of my third step, just as the brute was gathering himself for his spring, it suddenly struck me that in my haste and excitement, I had forgotten that I was using a borrowed rifle and had not pulled back **B** the hammer (my own was hammerless). \*To do this and put a bullet through the lion's brain was then the work of a moment ; and he fell dead instantly right on the top of Bhoota.\*

### EXERCISES.

1. Practise usages in : He was beside himself with fury. It was high time that we did something. It suddenly struck me that . . . Like a flash the horse passed the post. The motor flashed past me. The shot went clean through his heart.

2. Revise in oral sentences uses of : to manage, in suspense, pay attention to, he was facing me, no time to spare.

3. Contrast in their vernacular equivalents : He charged down in a bee-line for me. He rolled over in the impetus of the rush. I dropped on one knee.

4. What is the meaning of 're' in 'reload' ? Give four other verbs with this prefix, using them in sentences. Contrast the meaning of 'remark' and 're-mark,' and illustrate different uses of the prefix 're.' What does it always mean when used with a hyphen ?

5. Learn passage B by heart, and analyse as far as the semicolon.

6. Translate passage A into the vernacular.

7. 'Bullet,' 'ringlet' ; give words showing the usual significance of the suffix 'let.'

8. Write a letter to a cousin in India from East Africa introducing usages practised in the first six lessons of this book.

## LESSON XXXVIII

## BHOOTA DIES

WE did not lose a moment in rolling his great carcase off Bhoota's body and quickly forced open the jaws so as to disengage the mangled arm, which still remained in his mouth. By this time the poor *shikari* was in a fainting condition, and we flew to the *tonga* for the brandy flask which we had so fortunately brought with us. On making a rough examination of the wounded man, we found that his left arm and right leg were both frightfully mauled, the latter being broken as well. He was lifted tenderly into the *tonga*—how thankful we now were to have it with us!—and Spooner at once set off with him to camp and the doctor.

Before following them home I made a hasty examination of the dead lion and found him to be a very good specimen in every way. I was particularly satisfied to see that one of the two shots I had fired as he charged down upon me had taken effect. The bullet had entered below the right eye, and only just missed the brain. Unfortunately it was a steel one which Spooner had brought in his ammunition bag by mistake ; \*still one would have thought that a shot of **A** this kind, even with a hard bullet, would at least have checked the lion for the moment.\* As a matter of fact, however, it went clean through him without having

6. Translate passages B into the vernacular. Parse 'but,' and practise its use as in the last clause.

7. Write a note from Col Patterson to Dr. McCulloch inquiring after the health of Bhoota the next morning, and the doctor's reply.

8 Write Col. Patterson's letter to a friend in India asking him to communicate to Bhoota's family an account of his death.

## LESSON XXXIX

### A MAN-EATER IN A RAILWAY CARRIAGE

TOWARDS the end of my stay in British East Africa, I dined one evening with Mr. Ryall, the Superintendent of the Police, in his inspection carriage on the railway. Poor Ryall ! I little thought then what a terrible fate was to overtake him only a few months later in that very carriage in which we dined.

A man-eating lion had taken up his quarters at a little roadside station, and had developed an extraordinary taste for the members of the railway staff. He was a most daring brute, quite indifferent as to whether he carried off the station-master, the signalman or the pointsman ; and one night, in his efforts to obtain a meal, he actually climbed up on to the roof of the station buildings and tried to tear off the corrugated-iron sheets. At this the terrified *babu* in charge of the telegraph instrument below sent the following message to the Traffic Manager : " Lion fighting with station.

Send urgent assistance." Fortunately he was not victorious in his "fight with the station"; but he tried so hard to get in that he cut his feet badly on the iron sheeting, leaving large blood-stains on the roof. Another night, however, he succeeded in carrying off the native driver of the pumping-engine, and soon afterwards added several other victims to his list. On one occasion an engine driver arranged to sit up all night in a large iron water-tank in the hope of getting a shot at him, and had a loop-hole cut in the side of the tank from which to fire. But as so often happens, the hunter became the hunted; the lion turned up in the middle of the night, overthrew the tank and actually tried to drag the driver out through the narrow circular hole in the top through which he had squeezed in. \*But the tank happened to be just too deep for the A brute to be able to reach the man at the bottom; but the latter was naturally half paralysed with fear and had to crouch so low as to be unable to take anything like proper aim \* He fired, however, and succeeded in frightening the lion away for the time being.

It was in a vain attempt to destroy this pest that poor Ryall met his tragic and untimely end. On June 6, 1900, he was travelling up in his inspection carriage from Makindu to Nairobi, accompanied by two friends, Mr. Huebner and Mr. Parenti. When they reached Kimaa, which is about two hundred and fifty miles from Mombasa, they were told that the man-eater had been seen close to the station only a short



time before their train arrived, so they at once made up their minds to remain there for the night and endeavour to shoot him. Ryall's carriage was accordingly detached from the train and shunted into a siding close to the station, where, owing to the unfinished state of the line, it did not stand perfectly level, but leant noticeably to one side. In the afternoon the three friends went out to look for the lion, but finding no traces of him whatever, they returned to the carriage for dinner. Afterwards they all sat up on guard for some time ; but the only noticeable thing they saw was what they took to be two very  
**B** bright and steady glow-worms. \*After events proved that these could have been nothing else than the eyes of the man-eater steadily watching them all the time and studying their every movement.\* The hour now growing late, and there being apparently no sign of the lion, Ryall persuaded his two friends to lie down, while he kept the first watch. Huebner occupied the high berth over the table on the one side of the carriage, the only other berth being on the opposite side of the compartment and lower down. This Ryall offered to Parenti, who declined it, saying that he would be quite comfortable on the floor ; and he accordingly lay down to sleep, with his feet towards the sliding door which gave admission to the carriage.

### EXERCISES

1 Practise usages in : I little thought then      He had taken up his quarters      He met his end . . . A door gave admission to the carriage

2 Learn passage B by heart, and practise the construction with the participle in the sentence that follows it

3. Compare vernacular equivalents for      In that *very* carriage      He was in charge of the telegraph instrument      It was in his charge      He was frightened away for the time being.

4. Collect words and adjectives used in this book describing the movements of wild beasts, giving their nearest vernacular equivalents, as ' stealthy, stalk.

5. Translate passage A into the vernacular      Practise ' just too '

6 Write out the reply telegram sent to the Traffic Manager to the station Babu, and explain how much it would cost to send it from one station in India to another.

7 Write sentences using the following expressions : he tried so hard, that very (day), add to the list, arranged to, to have . . made

8. Give words to contrast the meanings of the prefixes ' de ' and ' dis '      Illustrate from this book

9 Describe a tiger hunt in India, introducing usages practised in Lessons VI -XII.

### LESSON XI.

#### MAN-EATER IN RAILWAY CARRIAGE (*Continued*)

It is supposed that Ryall, after watching for some considerable time, must have come to the conclusion that the lion was not going to make its appearance that night, for he lay down on the lower berth and

dozed off. No sooner had he done so, doubtless, than the cunning man-eater began cautiously to stalk the three sleepers. In order to reach the little platform at the end of the carriage, he had to mount two very high steps from the railway line, but this he managed to do successfully and in silence. The door from this platform into the carriage was a sliding one on wheels, which ran very easily on a brass runner, and as it was probably not quite shut, or at any rate not secured in any way, it was an easy matter for the lion *to thrust in a paw* and shove it open. But owing to the tilt of the carriage and to his great extra weight on the one side, the door slid to and snapped into the lock the moment he got his body right in, thus leaving him shut up with the three sleeping men in the compartment.

He sprang at once at Ryall, but in order to reach him had actually to plant his feet on Parenti, who, it will be remembered, was sleeping on the floor. At this moment Huebner was suddenly awakened by a loud cry, and on looking down from his berth was horrified *to see an enormous lion* standing with his hind feet on Parenti's body, while his forepaws rested on poor Ryall. Small wonder that he was panic-stricken at the sight. There was only one possible way of escape, and that was through the second sliding door communicating with the servants' quarters, which was opposite to that by which the lion had entered. But in order to reach this door Huebner had actually to

jump on to the man-eater's back, for its great bulk filled up all the space beneath his berth. It sounds scarcely credible, but it appears that in the excitement and horror of the moment he actually did this, and



"HE WAS KEPT ON VIEW FOR SEVERAL DAYS, AND THEN SHOT."

fortunately the lion was too busily engaged with his victim to pay any attention to him. So he managed to reach the door in safety ; but there, to his dismay, he found that it was held fast on the other side by the terrified coolies, who had been aroused by the disturbance caused by the lion's entrance. In utter desperation he made frantic efforts to open it and

exerting all his strength at last managed to pull it back sufficiently far to allow him to squeeze through, when the trembling coolies instantly tied it up again with their turbans. A moment afterwards a great crash was heard, and the whole carriage lurched violently to one side ; the lion had broken through one of the windows, carrying off poor Ryall with him. Being now released, Parenti lost no time in jumping through the window on the opposite side of the carriage, and fled for refuge to one of the station buildings ; his escape was little short of miraculous, as the lion had been actually standing on him as he lay on the floor. The carriage itself was badly shattered, and the wood-work of the window had been broken to pieces by the passage of the lion as he sprang through with his victim in his mouth.

All that can be hoped is that poor Ryall's death was instantaneous. His remains were found next morning about a quarter of a mile away in the bush, and were taken to Nairobi for burial. I am glad to be able to add that very shortly afterwards the terrible brute who was responsible for this awful tragedy was caught in an ingenious trap constructed by one of the railway staff. He was kept on view for several days, and then shot.

#### EXERCISES.

1. Practise usages in · He was kept *on view*. He *must have* decided not to come to-day No *sooner had* we lit the fire *than* the wind blew it out His thrift is *little short of a miser's*.

## XL MAN-EATER IN RAILWAY CARRIAGE 133

2. Give vernacular equivalents for : It is supposed that. He had to mount two high steps. His escape was little short of miraculous. Small wonder that he was panic-stricken at the sight

3. What parts of speech are the clauses and phrases in italics ?

4. Write sentences using the following expressions : at any rate, in order to, opposite to, filled up

5. Describe a railway carriage.

6. Practise in a story of an expedition in the Himalayas usages found in Lessons XII -XX.

## LESSON XLI

### I LEAVE FOR ENGLAND

ALTHOUGH the lion which caused poor Bhoota's death was the last I managed to shoot in East Africa, I saw several others afterwards while travelling up and down the line at different times on construction work. In particular, I remember one very curious incident which happened early on the morning of June 2, when I was travelling towards Nairobi, accompanied by Dr. McCulloch. The Doctor was going home on leave in the course of a few days, and was bemoaning to me his bad luck in never having shot or even seen a lion all the time he had been in the country. We were standing on the engine at the time, facing each other, *he* with his back to the north.

\*“ My dear Mac,” I said, “ it is because you don't *A* look out for them.”

" Rubbish," he retorted ; " I do nothing else when I am out hunting."

" Well," I replied, " are you really very anxious to shoot one before you go home ? "

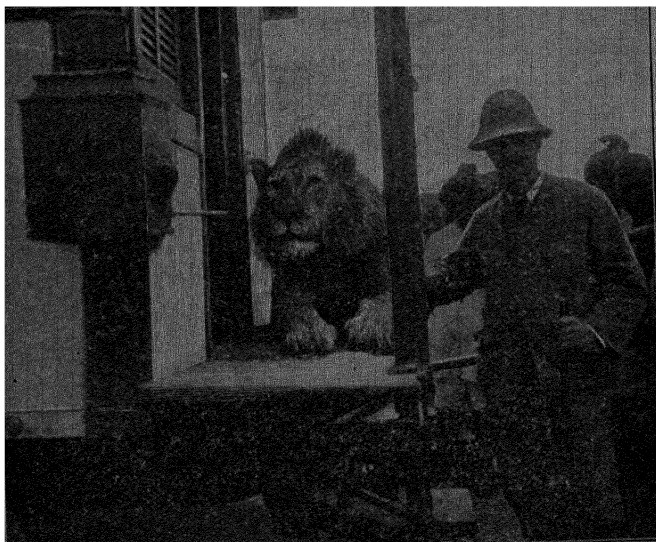
" I would rather get a lion than anything else in the world," was the emphatic reply

" Very good, then. Sultan," I called to the driver, " stop the engine."\*

" Now, Mac," I continued, as the train was quickly brought to a standstill, " here's a chance for you. Just jump off and shoot those two over there "

He turned round in blank astonishment and could hardly believe his eyes when he saw two fine lions only about two hundred yards off, busily engaged in devouring an antelope, which they had evidently just killed. I had noticed them almost as soon as Mac had begun to talk of his bad luck, and had only waited to tell him until we got nearer, so as to give him a greater surprise. He was off the engine in a second and made directly for the two beasts. Just as he was about to fire one of them bolted, so I called out to him *to shoot* the other quickly before he too made good his escape. This one was looking at us over his shoulder with one paw on the dead antelope, and while he stood in this attitude Mac dropped him with a bullet through the **B** heart. \*Needless to say he was tremendously delighted with his success, and after the dead lion had been carried to the train and propped up against a carriage, I took a photograph of him standing beside his fine trophy.\*

Towards the end of 1899 I left for England. A few days before I started all my native African "children," as they called themselves, came in a body and begged to be taken with me. I pictured to them the cold, wet



"I TOOK A PHOTOGRAPH OF HIM STANDING BESIDE HIS FINE TROPHY."

climate of England and its great distance from their native land; but they assured me that \*these were nothing to them, as they only wished to continue my "children" and to go wherever I went.\* I could hardly imagine myself arriving in London with a body-guard of four hundred more or less naked savages, but it was only with difficulty that I persuaded them that



they had better remain in their own country. The ever-faithful Mahina, my "boy" Roshan Khan, my honest *chaukidar* Mian, and a few other coolies who had been a long time with me, accompanied me to the coast, where they bade me a sorrowful farewell and left for India the day before I sailed on my homeward journey

## EXERCISES

1. Practise usages in ' He could hardly believe his eyes I pictured to them They came in a body to say good-bye One request in particular I made of him . They mustered 200 more or less They made good their escape It is blank stupidity to behave like this

2. Revise orally in sentences . manage to, to go on leave, bid farewell, strange to say, cause (1) as a noun, (2) as a verb.

3. Form verbs and nouns of the same derivation as ' moan, companionable, successful, continuous, emphatic

4. Parse the words in italics in this lesson.

5. Rewrite passage A in indirect speech.

6. Revise the different uses of : just, even

I left the baby in charge of the *chaukidar* I left the *chaukidar* in charge of the baby. Contrast these two senses of ' in charge of,' and practise the use of the word ' charge ' with the verbs ' give ' and ' take.'

7. Translate passage B into the vernacular.

8. Turn passage C into direct speech

9. Describe Roshan Khan's arrival in his village in India, and how he found his wife and children

















